



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, February 25, 2013  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Berthiaume & Fritze, and Town Administrator Gaudette

At 6:01 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of February 11, 2013 (Woodbury / Berthiaume) passed 4/0. (Mr. Fritze arrived after the approval of the minutes).

### **Citizen Input**

None

### **Communications**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Action Item: Approve One Day Alcohol License for American Legion**

Dean Stevens, representative for the American Legion, requested a one-day alcohol license for a Fifties-Sixties Dance to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall.

*A motion to approve a one-day alcohol license for the Fifties-Sixties Dance on May 4th (Woodbury / Berthiaume) passed 5-0.*

#### **Action Item: PILOT Agreement with Borrego Solar, Wilson Street Project**

The Board agreed to table until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

#### **Discussion: SEBRSD Budget Update**

Kurt Nordquist, Gail Dr., and member of the School Committee was present for the discussion.

Mr. Gaudette reported that a meeting was held earlier in the day with Acting Superintendent Deb Zablocki, Interim Business Manager Rich Scortino, and Accounts Receivables/Grant Manager Sandy Bluyus, in an effort to obtain additional details on budget line items and

improve communication. School Committee Chair Mary Gersham will coordinate additional meetings.

Mr. Berthiaume noted that the Town will plan its budget based on minimum local contributions. Anything above must come from a budget override or alternative plan by the District.

The Administrator advised Mr. Nordquist to inform Chairman Gresham to notify the Board and the public regarding proposed budget cuts and to have alternatives available for discussion.

Mr. Nordquist mentioned a meeting to be held on Wednesday at 7 PM to discuss additional cuts; \$200,000 was cut last week, though this amount falls short of what the State would like to see. Mr. Stevens noted it is in the District's best interest to keep the public informed for any chance of an approved override.

Mr. Fritze noted that budget additions approved in June by the previous administration, should be the first items cut. The Board agreed.

The Board thanked Mr. Nordquist for attending.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

### **FY14 Budget Update**

Mr. Gaudette will finalize the budget after receiving numbers from the SEBRSD. He asked the Board to officially open the Warrant for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Meeting.

### **Action Item: Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant (List of Proposed Articles)**

*A motion to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Berthiaume/ Woodbury) passed 5-0.*

The Board reviewed the list of sixteen articles (attached), plus two additional articles: a real estate transfer easement to National Grid and a PILOT agreement for a solar farm.

Mr. Stevens asked the Administrator to provide an update on the status of the Transfer Station at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Bond Rating Review:**

Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the Town received a rating grade of Aa3 from Moody's Investor Service. This rating is on the high end of the scale and means the Town is considered among the highest quality and lowest credit risk. It puts Spencer in a strong position from a borrowing standpoint as well.

### **Board Liaison Reports:**

The Board agreed to have Mr. Stevens assume Mr. Woodbury's role as Cultural Council

liaison as it fits well with his current role as liaison to the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Fritze noted that the Fire Station Annex now has electricity.

### **Citizen Input**

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd, expressed concern with the salary of the Acting Superintendent Deb Zablocki. Mr. Berthiaume said the SEBRSDC took into account that she is certified for the position. He was also concerned about the Town having a gentlemen's club. The Board advised him that type of business is allowed only through zoning.

Kevin Hayes, Woodside Rd, asked for a copy of the contract allowing Superintendent Reza Namin to resign today. He is also concerned over the lack of information being provided to the public by the SEBRSDC to get the budget deficit under control. Mr. Hayes asked the Board not to consider an override until the District comes back with a detailed budget. Mr. Pepe said the Board wants to see cuts and structural changes prior to considering an override.

*A motion to send a letter to the SEBRSDC requesting a copy of the separation agreement with the Superintendent (Berthiaume/ Woodbury) passed 5-0.*

Brenda Berard, Main St, said she is disappointed with the School Committee's inability to make a decision.

### **Board Member and Staff Comments**

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant