



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: November 18, 2013
Time: 6:03 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Woodbury, Vice Chair Berthiaume, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Pepe and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Item: Joint meeting with East Brookfield to select representative on SEBRSD Collective Bargaining Negotiating Committee

East Brookfield Selectmen were not able to attend. Selectmen Berthiaume reported that Spencer and East Brookfield alternate membership each year to serve on the SEBRSD Collective Bargaining Negotiating Committee and this year will be for a Spencer representative.

A motion to appoint Selectmen Pepe as the Board of Selectmen representative to the SEBRSD Collective Bargaining negotiating committee (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Discussion: Parking on Summit Street/Winter Parking Ban

Utilities & Facilities Superintendent Steven Tyler reviewed parking concerns on Summit Street. He noted last year there were no parking restrictions resulting in several complaints relative to inadequate snow plowing. The parking ban was put in place this year to resolve those issues.

After discussion with residents and Mr. Tyler, the Board agreed to revise the existing parking ban to allow parking on the even numbered side of the street up to #6 Summit St., and after the corner to allow parking on the odd numbered side of the street.

A motion to allow parking on the even numbered side of the street up to #6 Summit St., and after the corner to allow parking on the odd numbered side of the street (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Mr. Tyler will arrange to have signs installed in the area.

Discussion: SEBRSD Budget Update – Department of Education Decision

Administrator Gaudette reported that the decision from the Mass Department of Education is not likely to come in until later in the week. He advised the Board that the Town Meeting Warrant needs to be set at this time and asked that they vote on the budget now, which is the worst case scenario, however once the decision from the State is in and if it is a lower number a vote to amend on at the Town Meeting can take place.

The worst case scenario includes closing the Town Hall two days per week, closing the Senior Center and the Transfer Station, and cutting back on library operating hours. Mr. Gaudette said he is open to any other suggestions that could prevent this scenario.

Clerical Union Steward Susan Lecaire, 49 Jolicoeur Ave., addressed the Board informing them of the potential impact to the clerks. This will have a devastating affect on their retirement benefits and health insurance premiums.

Administrator Gaudette said is hopeful this will not happen and the lesser number will be assigned by the State.

Chairman Woodbury said the Board and Administrator tried to prevent this and he is sorry it came to this point; ultimately the voters will have the final say. The Board agreed.

Action Item: Vote to Set & Close the December 5, 2013 Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant

Changes to the W arrant were reviewed. They include revisions to Article 5: SEBRSD Assessment; Article 7: FY14 Operating Budget; and the addition of Article 14:Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws to Regulate Marijuana Dispensaries.

A motion to set the December 5, 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant as submitted (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 5/0.

A motion to close the December 5, 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 5/0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

FY14 Budget Recommendations for 12/5/13 Meeting
12/5/13 Town Meeting Warrant