



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2013
Time: 6:00 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. Vice-chair Berthiaume called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Woodbury arrived at 6:16 p.m.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 23rd Business Meeting (Pepe/Fritze) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

The Highway Department has free wood chips available. Residents may contact them directly.

Old Business

Action Item: Vote to Approve Parking Ticket Fees

Mr. Stevens suggests having a higher fine for those violations related to obstructions. He would like to see a \$50 fine for Fire Lane parking violations.

A motion to increase traffic violation amounts on the current ticket from \$10 to \$15 for violations #10-17 and from \$15 to \$20 for violations #4-9; and to increase Fire Lane violation from \$25 to \$50, pending allowance by Town Bylaws or State Statue (Stevens/Pepe) 4-0.

Attached as part of this record is a copy of Spencer Police Department ticket listing all violations.

New Business

Action Item: Vote to Approve Gaudette-Kirk, American Legion Request for Veteran's Day Parade Permit

A motion to approve a permit to hold the annual Veteran's Day Parade on November 11, 2013 (Fritze/Pepe) passed 4/0.

Action Item: Vote to Approve Spencer Exchange Club Annual Toll Booth on Novembers 2nd, with rain date of November 16th from 9 am to 1 pm.

Lynn Esposito, President of the Exchange Club was present. She informed the Board that all proceeds will be used to purchase warm clothing for Spencer children.

Mr. Pepe noted that he is a member of the Exchange Club, however he will vote on this item since there is no conflict of interest.

A motion to approve a Toll Booth permit for the Spencer Exchange Club to be held on Novembers 2, 2013, with a rain date of November 16, 2013 (Fritze/Pepe) passed 4/0.

Action Item: FY13 CDBG General Administration Agreement

Administrator Gaudette advised the Board to engage the services of the PVPC once again, to administer the FY13 CDBG grant for Spencer and North Brookfield. The Town has been very satisfied with them in the past. The agreement with PVPC to administer the \$800,000 grant amounts to \$171,000.

A motion to allow the Chair to sign the contract and authorize the Administrator to enter into a contract with PVPC for the CDBG (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 4/0.

Chairman Woodbury arrived at 6:16 pm.

Announcement: Notice of Property Acquisition by MA Department of Agricultural Service – Small Farm

Administrator Gaudette announced that the Department of Agriculture has acquisition interest in an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) for property owned by James W. Small, Lesley E. Zorabedian and Edward M. Small, heirs of Eleanor S. Downey for property located at 3 Wire village Road.

Action Item: Consent to Reduce the 120-day Notice Period of APR Acquisition– Small Farm

The Department of Agriculture has requested a “Consent to Reduction of Notice Period” to reduce the time period to close on the APR from 120-days down to 60-days.

A motion to reduce the APR from 120-days down to 60-days regarding Small Farm (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator Report

SEBRSD Budget Update

Budget & Revised Assessment

The latest SEBRSD assessment amounts to over \$1.1 million for Spencer. Mr. Gaudette will create a flyer detailing the impact relative to the tax base. Key dates for the Special District-wide Meeting, Fall Town Meeting, Fall Elections & FY14 Tax Classification Calendar were reviewed.

Different scenarios, depending upon the outcome of the District-wide meeting were discussed. If the school budget passes, the Town will seek an override to cover Town services. If it fails, the Department of Education will come in and issue a decision. Selectmen Berthiaume asked the Administrator to provide an estimate of the impact to Town services if the \$1.1 million is approved. He will have a summary for discussion at the next Workshop and will also have handout available for voters at the District-wide Meeting. Regardless of the outcome, property tax bills must be mailed out by December 31st.

District-wide Meeting Coordination

Mr. Gaudette reviewed a memo describing the specifics of District-wide meeting.

Mr. Stevens asked about the cost. Mr. Gaudette explained that it is the responsibility of the school; however, the Town is handling the overall coordination and providing employees. Any costs above and beyond that must be borne by the school.

Mr. Berthiaume mentioned his frustration with the lack of information at the recent School Committee meeting and the District's reluctance to provide financial paperwork. He was disappointed with Superintendent Malvey's budget presentation reflecting cuts for athletics, music, and teachers. Mr. Pepe questioned why they would choose to cut teachers when there are other areas that make more sense, including \$310,000 in unfilled positions.

Mr. Pepe asked the Administrator to write a letter to the School Committee's Counsel asking for financial back-up documentation. Mr. Berthiaume would like this request to fall under the Freedom of Information Act.

A motion to make a request to the School District, under the Freedom of Information Act, to provide documentation pertaining to payroll, transfers, and monthly expenses on an on-going basis (Pepe/ Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Department of Revenue Issues

Mr. Gaudette again stressed the necessity to get tax bills out before December 31st.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe reported:

- A kick-off meeting was held for the Sugden Block Sale Committee
- A letter was sent to the Agricultural Commission regarding the use of the Fairgrounds for Farmers Market
- He thanked all who attended the dedication of the Seth Fancher Memorial Bench

Citizen Input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

Parking Ticket Violations
CDBG Administration Agreement
MA Dept. of Agriculture APR
SEBRSD District-wide Meeting Coordination Memo