



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, July 14, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Pepe, Vice Chair Fritze, Clerk G. Woodbury, Members Stevens & C. Woodbury. Administrator Gaudette was attending a class.

At 6:01 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of Business Meeting of June 9th, Special Meeting of June 12th & Workshop of June 16, 2014 (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

Jennifer Gaucher, 10 Gauthier Rd., informed the Board she collected signatures asking for a Binding Ballot Question to be added to the Ballot to restrict Proposition 2 ½ Override and Debt Exclusion requests to one per year. She said she wants to stop tax payer abuse. Mr. Stevens pointed out that our form of government allows voters to decide and he does not agree with restricting that. The Administrator will review and determine the process.

John Bailey addressed the Board with concern over the barbeque grills on the sidewalk outside of Whitco, stating it is a violation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). He had documents showing that the State found them to block or interfere with the lane of travel, making it a violation. Bill Shemeth will arrange a meeting with the Disability Commission for further discussion.

Donnie Berthiaume offered his thanks to all who donated and volunteered their time for the Family Fun Day and Fireworks event, including the Zukas family and Maurice O'Connell at CSX who donated \$10,000. He thanked Ms. Mary Madden, the oldest citizen, soon to turn 100, for participating in the fireworks countdown. Mr. Pepe thanked Wendy and Donnie Berthiaume and the Celebration Committee for all their efforts with this successful event.

Mr. Berthiaume asked to be kept informed and offered his assistance on future discussions inviting other communities to discuss Chapter 70, 71 & 74 requirements.

Bill Shemeth continues to receive donations for Luther Hill Park. The Abby donated over \$5,000.

Mr. Shemeth said he takes issue with anyone trying to deny voters the right to ask for services; there is no tax payer abuse by the Town of Spencer. The Town has been placed in this situation by ever increasing minimum local educational contributions. He applauded the Board and Administrator for taking the lead in working to get the State to fix this funding issue.

Communications

Mr. Stevens was asked by a resident to relay a message to speak loud and clear during the meeting as it's sometimes difficult to hear on the TV channel.

New Business

6:05 p.m. – National Grid Pole Hearing – Wilson St. Plan #17106889

The hearing opened at 6:44 pm.

Seth Schanthy from National Grid requested approval to locate a new SO pole on Wilson St. that will serve a new house being built. Based on a request by the Utilities and Facilities Superintendent, the pole will be moved back six feet from the original proposal.

A resident at 1 Bellevue Dr. asked if it will have an effect on her property. Mr. Schanthy said it will not.

The hearing was closed at 6:47 pm.

A motion to approve the request of National Grid to locate one SO pole as presented (G. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Request for a One Day Alcohol License from American Legion for Vietnam Veterans Ride on August 16, 2014

Jerry Perron and Carol Southworth were present to request a One-day license to serve beer and wine outside in the American Legion parking lot as part of the Annual Vietnam Veterans Ride event. Mr. Perron asked to use the Town Hall back lot for overflow parking. Mr. Pepe didn't see any issues as long as the Administrator approves.

A motion to approve the Request for a One-day Alcohol License for American Legion for the Vietnam Veterans Ride on August 16, 2014 from 12-8 pm. (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Request for a License to Hold a Fair from the Spencer Agricultural Association for the Spencer Fair from August 28, 2014 through September 2, 2014

A motion to approve the request for a License to Hold a Fair from the Spencer Agricultural Association from August 28, 2014 through September 2, 2014 (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Request from Spencer Agricultural Association for one-way traffic pattern on Smithville Road and Smithville Cross Road for Labor Day Weekend at the Spencer Fairgrounds (August 28-September 2, 2014)

A motion to approve the request of Spencer Agricultural Association for a one-way traffic pattern on Smithville Road and Smithville Cross Road from August 28 through September 2, 2014 (C. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Request for a Sunday Entertainment License from the Spencer Agricultural Association for the Spencer Fair on August 31, 2014

A motion to approve the request for a Sunday Entertainment License for the Spencer Fair on August 31, 2014 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Old Business

Action Item: Vote to Finalize Spencer Fish & Game Agreement for Senior Center use

A motion to approve the final lease agreement with the Spencer Fish & Game, effective July 1, 2014 (Stevens/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Discussion: SEBRSD Budget Update

Mr. Pepe reported that based on notification of an increase in transportation reimbursement, the SEBRSC was asked to meet to discuss a revised budget. He noted that the District has made painful cuts and worked with the Administrator to eliminate the need for a debt exclusion. A Ballot Election may be held on September 16th.

Town Administrator Report

Administrator is away attending a class.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe reported that an RFP on Sugden Block will be presented very soon. He will also follow up with Mr. Knight of the Spencer Agricultural Association to discuss the Farmer's Market idea.

Mr. Fritze reported that Seaman Engineering is not able to provide the work required for the Town Hall boiler upgrade. He is waiting to hear from another company.

Citizen input

Carl Kwiatkowski of Meadow Rd. asked if Comcast will increase the pricing when they take over the Charter contracts. Mr. Pepe said they will have to honor the existing contract.

Bill Schemeth suggests placing the SEBRSD budget number on the Ballot now and then put Town Services on in November. The Board will look at every scenario.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe noted there was an article regarding the closing of Luther Hill Park in the Telegram & Gazette. He said public safety is the number one priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

National Grid Pole Hearing Application
American Legion Alcohol License Application
Spencer Fair Sunday Entertainment License