



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 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 and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:04 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of September 10th & September 24th; and the Workshop of September 17th (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

A Special Olympics Horse Show will be held on October 18th at Canterbury Acres.

CMRPC is conducting a regional transportation survey, which is posted on the Town Website for anyone interested in participating.

New Business

Off-Premise Retail Alcohol Beverage Licensees Sunday Opening Time Change

Administrator Gaudette explained that the ABCC announced a new Sunday hours for off-premises retail alcoholic beverages licensees. MGL c. 138 §15 allows Licensees to sell alcohol beginning at 10 am on Sundays. They must complete a Change of Hours form and notify the Board of their intent to change the hours. The form gets sent to the ABCC.

Policy Introduction: Committee Charge for Veterans Memorial at Prouty Park in conjunction with Exchange Club project grant

The Administrator announced that members of the Spencer Exchange Club worked with Senator Brewer on a grant to renovate Prouty Park and build a Veterans Memorial on the property. The grant funds must be spent by next year. He introduced a draft charge for a Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee comprised of a member of the Board of Selectmen, Parks & Recreation, American Legion, Exchange Club, and two citizens-at-large. The Board will sign off on final design.

Old Business

Action Item – Authorize Town Administrator to sign 2014 CDBG contact with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

The Town was awarded the CDBG grant for 2014. Mr. Gaudette asked the Board to authorize him to sign the contact with PVPC as the grant administrator.

A motion to Authorize Town Administrator to sign 2014 CDBG contact with PVPC for the CDBG Contract (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item – Vote to submit Extension Request to DHCD for 2013 CDBG

The Administrator advised the Board to authorize a six month extension request to allow time limit to spend the funds as the December 2014 deadline will not be met.

A motion to submit an Extension Request to DHCD for the 2013 CDBG (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator Report

Discussion: Special Town Meeting and Special Election Update

Administrator Gaudette reviewed the FY15 STM and Tax Classification calendar and the revised budget. Mary Braney, Chairman of the Finance Committee was present for the discussion.

Revisions were made to the previously approved budget, due to unforeseen circumstances. Town Counsel recommends rescinding what was voted at the ATM in May, and vote at the STM to accept the revised budget. Adjustments include additional revenue added to the tax levy and an increase in local aid.

The Administrator reviewed the November 13th STM Warrant containing twelve articles, including the budget changes.

The Capital Planning Committee will vote on the fire truck repairs and/or purchase and will make a recommendation.

Mr. C. Woodbury asked about an updated estimate on the cost of new truck.

Mr. Gaudette said a decision needs to be made whether to repair the existing truck or purchase a new one. Quotes on both the repair and to purchase new will be provided prior to the next meeting.

Discussion: Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

The Administrator reviewed key dates for the Special Town Meeting and Election Calendar. He advised the Board to hold the Town Meeting on November 13th.

A motion to open hold a Special Town Meeting November 13, 2014, and open the Warrant (G.Woodbury/ Fritze) passed 5/0.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens reported he attended a recent SEBRSC meeting and is hopeful for fresh start with a new Superintendent.

Mr. Gaudette met with Superintendent Candidate Dr. Crowe and had the opportunity to interview many who worked with her in the Pittsfield school system and was impressed by the feedback he received.

Mr. Pepe will reach out to the SEBRSD teacher negotiating team for an update.

Citizen input

Mary Braney announced that Spencer Cable Access (SCA) inserted a flyer in the New Leader notifying the public of changes relative to Charter going digital and the new channel line-up. SCA will offer a four week training program on recording, editing, and producing programs.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Administrator Gaudette reported:

- The Town was able to avoid a 30% increase in utility costs by locking in rates with Constellation Energy back in August.
- There is a 30% increase in salt prices over last year, which is significant considering \$275,000 over budget was needed last year.

Mr. Stevens:

- Asked for an update on the results of providing free salt & sand last winter. Mr. Gaudette will check with Mr. Butler.
- Mr. Stevens asked about the Ebola epidemic. Mr. Gaudette said Board of Health Agent Lee Jarvis will stay updated and at this time there is no need to take action.

Mr. Pepe:

- Asked about researching the specific issues Worcester had with Comcast. Mr. Gaudette asked if he wanted a report from Worcester.
- The Leicester-Spencer Eagles were granted permission to hold a Toll Booth on October 11th; however the Exchange Club was under the impression that they are the only group allowed to hold a Toll Booth during the fourth quarter. In addition, when the Eagles arrived at the Transfer Station there was already a group there collecting donations. Mr. Gaudette will check with Mr. Tyler to see if there's a policy on Toll Booths at the Transfer Station.
- Trick-or-Treat hours are from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on October 31st and the Halloween party at the Town Hall will follow.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 2, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and), ¶ 1, to discuss the discipline or dismissal or, complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual

At 7:38 p.m. a motion to meet in Executive Session (/) in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and), ¶ 1, to discuss the discipline or dismissal or, complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, and will reconvene only to adjourn (G. Woodbury/Fritze) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

ABCC Advisory
Draft Charge for Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee
Special Town Meeting Draft Warrant
2014 CDBG Contract
Extension Request to DHCD for 2013 CDBG
FY15 Revised Budget