



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 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 6:00 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

Chairman Pepe wished Mary Madden a Happy 100th Birthday.
Chairman Pepe congratulated Spencer Cable Access on a successful Food Drive event.

New Business

Common Victualler License Transfer for Pizza Hut, 62 W. Main St.

Andrew Prescott, Regional Manager for Pizza Hut was present. He said the plan is to open the restaurant in late October, with hours of operation from 11 am to 10 pm Sunday through Thursday, and 11 am to 11 pm Friday and Saturday. He anticipates employing 10 people.

A motion to approve the Common Victualler License Application of Pizza Hut (Fritze/ C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Toll Booth Request for Leicester-Spencer Eagles

Scot Peterson, representing the Leicester/Spencer Eagles asked for permission to hold a Toll Booth on October 11th to be located at the Transfer Station and at the intersection of Route 31 North and 9. Proceeds will help with their fundraising efforts to obtain a facility. The mission of the Eagles is to give back to the community and during the past year, over \$8,000 was contributed to local organizations, including \$1,100 for Spencer.

A motion to approve the request of the Leicester/Spencer Fraternal Order of Eagles to hold a Toll Booth on October 11, 2014 at the Transfer Station and at the intersection of Routes 31 North and 9 (C. Woodbury/ Fritze) passed 5/0.

Old Business

Public Hearing – Sugden Block Draft Request for Proposals (RFP)

A motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Town Planner Michelle Buck provided an overview of the Sugden Block Sale Advisory Committee Charge. She presented a summary of the RFP, noting the goal is to determine the proposed use or redevelopment that will be in the best interest of the Town. This may not necessarily be the proposal with the highest priced offer since the desire is to see the property used in a way that meets the goals of the Town for Economic Development, Elimination of Blight, and Historic Preservation. Redevelopment should offer opportunity for increased business activity and enhance the overall economic development climate in downtown Spencer.

The Committee developed selection criteria that allows for the ability to rank Proposals according to how well they fit in with the goals of the Town. Ms. Buck said a final RFP will be drafted and feedback from this hearing will be taken into consideration in the final draft, which will be advertised and distributed. After completed Proposals are received, reviewed and ranked, a recommendation will be made to the Selectmen and the Trustees.

Mike Toomey asked if the value for WiFi was researched to assess what it may be worth to set up carrier locations. Ms. Buck said that was not the goal of the Committee. Mr. Gaudette noted the intent is to advertise the RFP; the market will determine what gets submitted. The goal is to sell the building.

Bob Cirba asked about the assessed value of the property and if a realtor is involved. Mr. Gaudette explained the value is calculated by the Assessor's Office and guidelines of M.G.L. Chapter 30B must be adhered to and use of a private realtor is not allowed.

Mr. Gaudette is waiting for Town Counsel to determine if the Selectmen or the Trustees are responsible for the final decision. Nevertheless, both agreed they will work together and not move forward without the approval of the other.

Mr. Stevens asked if the RFP can be directed to a certain use. Mr. Gaudette said anyone is free to submit based on information in the RFP. Details on the shared right of way with the Library will be worked out at a later date.

Mr. C. Woodbury asked if the \$1.2 million in repairs will be disclosed. Mr. Gaudette said the information is available; however it was a windshield survey, not completed by an architect, and not an accurate estimate.

A motion to close the hearing at 6:35 pm (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator Report

Discussion with Chief Parsons – Engine 2 Repairs

Fire Chief Robert Parsons and Deputy Bill Locke were present. The Chief reported issues with Fire Department vehicle breakdowns, including ongoing issues with Engine 2, a frontline vehicle. There have been major mechanical issues including ongoing pump issues resulting in over \$60,000 in repairs over the past 16 years. It is currently out of service and needs an additional 60,000 in repairs. The Chief is opposed to putting any additional money into it and instead wants to use funds towards a replacement by purchasing a demo model.

Selectmen Pepe asked if there is a market for late model reconditioned vehicles. Chief Parsons said it is unlikely anyone would give up a fairly new emergency vehicle, and if so he would have reliability concerns. Sharing of equipment with a mutual aid group or is not a good idea with frontline vehicles.

Selectmen Fritze noted the frame for Engine 2 is in bad shape and estimates its worth to be \$15,000. Chief Parsons noted that a community the size of Spencer should have three fire engines.

Selectmen G. Woodbury is concerned by this unexpected expense. He asked about the cost for a spec vehicle. Chief Parsons said the cost to build a new one according to specs is estimated at \$475,000. He provided a sheet with specs for Mr. Woodbury to review. Administrator Gaudette noted it is an unexpected expense and will be a challenge to fund. He will have funding options available within the coming weeks. The Warrant closes on October 22nd.

Discussion: Fall Special Town Meeting and Election Calendar

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

Action Item: Set Special Town Meeting Date for November 13, 2014

A motion to Set Special Town Meeting Date for November 13, 2014 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Open November 13, 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant

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

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe reported that teacher negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Stevens reported on the recent School Committee meeting:

- MCAS results will be presented in a public forum.
- Principal Bachant was personally upset over David Prouty High School going from a Level 1 to Level 3 school, caused by a reduction in the number of students participating in MCAS testing.
- There are now two finalists for the Superintendent position as one backed out.
- Julie Suprenant resigned from her position as Business Manager. Mr. Stevens thanked her for her efforts with the budget and noted with appreciation, her transparency.

Citizen input

Carl Kwitakowski, Meadow Rd. asked if the Town will hold a hearing on the Comcast takeover of Charter. Mr. Gaudette said it is a transfer and as long as Comcast is able to meet certain criteria, which include financial and technical ability, there's nothing that can be done to stop it.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about getting grant funding to purchase a new fire truck. Mr. Gaudette noted that grants are difficult to obtain for that type of equipment, however all options will be explored.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. G. Woodbury said he, Mr. Fritze, and Mr. Stevens had a great time at Mary Madden's birthday celebration. They noted how vibrant Ms. Madden is at 100 years old.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Common Victualer License Application for Pizza Hut
Sugden Block Draft Request for Proposals (RFP)
Special Town Meeting and Election Calendar