



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, July 20, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Members Fritze, Pepe, C. Woodbury, and Administrator Gaudette.

Chairman Woodbury opened the meeting at 6:05 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: Town Clerk & Registrars - Polling Hours

Town Clerk Laura Torti and Registrar Beth McPhearson were present for the discussion. Ms. Torti provided a historical report on Town Election Polling Hours highlighting attendance at elections dating back to 1993. Morning voting hours were reduced in 2003 due to low voter activity. The cost savings by this reduction is \$2,000 per election. Ms. Torti mentioned that absentee voting is an option for anyone unable to make it during normal polling hours. The State is looking into early voting possibly in 2016.

Mr. Gaudette noted that a Town Meeting article is necessary to make any changes to the General Bylaws with regard to polling hours. The Board wants to make it most convenient for residents to vote. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Discussion: Community Garden at Pleasant Street School – Laura Torti

Ms. Torti would like to create a community garden using the land behind the former Pleasant Street School. She met with the Water Commissioners and they agreed to allow the use of water, however there is concern over liability. She asked the Board for permission to allow the Town to accept liability and provide the necessary insurance coverage.

Mr. Gaudette will check with the Town's Insurance Broker on a policy for this type of use on Town property.

Ms. Torti learned that Leicester's community garden is sponsored by a local church and they are responsible for the liability as well.

The Board thanked Ms. Torti for her efforts and noted their support for this project.

Discussion: Roads Planning Follow-up

Mr. Gaudette reported that members of the Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC) are interested in working on a Roads Planning Project. A kickoff meeting will be held in September and an initial presentation is expected to be offered at the Fall Town Meeting, which will serve to educate the public on what to expect at the Annual Town Meeting in 2016. He stressed the importance of public involvement and advised the Board to assign this task to the FMPC members, along with Mr. Pepe, Mr. Stevens, and Bill Scarpati, representing the firm of Fay Spofford & Thorndike. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Gaudette will also be involved in the project.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, for purposes of discussing contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

At 7:03 p.m. a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶2, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, as the chair has decided that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury -yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Mr. G. Woodbury announced the meeting will reconvene only to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Documents

Town Election Polling Hours Report