



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, November 23, 2015 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Clerk C. Woodbury, Members Fritze & Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Item: Vote to authorize Chairman Pepe to participate remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Selectmen Pepe was able to attend the meeting.

Minutes

A motion to approve the Special Meeting of November 2, 2015 and Business Meeting of November 9, 2015 (Stevens/Fritze) passed 4/0. Selectmen Pepe abstained due to absence.

Citizen Input

Wendy Beauvais, owner of Apple Blossoms has been working to improve the appearance of Main Street and is having decorative banners installed on utility poles from Spring Street to Water Street. She also purchased evergreen roping and wreaths for the Town Hall.

Chairman Woodbury and the Board thanked Wendy and her husband Joe Beauvais for their efforts to improve the Town. Spencer businesses interested in sponsoring a banner may contact Ms. Beauvais for details.

A motion that the Board adopt a resolution to recognize the beautification efforts by Wendy and Joe Beauvais and the Spencer Exchange Club (Stevens/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Communications

None

New Business

6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing: FY2016 Tax Classification

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing at 6:20 pm.

Administrator Gaudette introduced Principal Assessor Linda LeBlanc and Board of Assessors members Jeremy Snow and Dave Desroiser.

The following actions were recommended by the Assessors to the Select Board:

1. Adopt a Single Tax Rate
2. Not to adopt the Open Space Discount
3. Not to adopt the Residential Exemption
4. Not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption

Principal Assessor Linda LeBlanc reviewed a letter explaining a Single Tax Rate versus a Split Tax Rate; an Open Space Discount; a Residential Exemption; and a Small Commercial Exemption.

Mr. C. Woodbury asked what about the percentage of multifamily units in Town. The estimate is 5.7% multifamily parcels. Ms. LeBlanc will prepare calculations and the breakdown of units and provide to additional details to the Board.

A motion to adopt a Single Tax Rate (Pepe/Stevens) passed 5/0.

A motion not to adopt the Open Space Discount (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

A motion to not to adopt the Residential Exemption (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

There were no comments from the public. The hearing was closed at 6:31 pm.

6:15 p.m. CDBG Community Development Strategy

Mr. Chris Dunphy from PVPC was present and asked the Board to review and readopt a revised Community Development Strategy for the next CDBG application for FY16-FY18.

Mr. Dunphy noted that the general priorities for FY16-FY18 remain the same and referred to the list of Priority Projects as outlined on the FY16-18 Community Development Strategy (CDS).

Mr. Gaudette proposed a few changes to the CDS:

- Add Zoning Bylaw changes on page 2
- Capital Improvement Committee needs to review and revise the Capital Needs projects on page 3
- On page 7 add “other public buildings” to item #11 and remove item #4.

A motion to accept the Community Development Strategy for FY2016-FY2018 with changes as discussed (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

6:30 p.m. – Public Hearing: Reprogram FY2013 CDBG funds (Housing Rehabilitation) to FY2014 CDBG Activities (Mechanic Street Improvements)

At 6:50 pm Chairman Woodbury opened the public hearing.

Mr. Dunphy reported that there are currently two CDBG grants for FY2013 with the Town of N. Brookfield for planning and housing services and after all goals have been met a surplus of \$20,000 remains. Spencer would like to reprogram the FY13 amount towards the FY14 Mechanic Street project and Mr. Dunphy confirmed with the DHCD that this could be amended and applied to the FY2014 CDBG. The amendment will allow \$20,000 to be added to the FY14 grant program to offset Chapter 90 contributions toward the project.

The hearing closed at 6:55 pm.

A motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the Amendment for the FY14 CDBG as stated (Pepe/Stevens) passed 5/0.

FY2016 Grant Application Discussion

Elizabeth Rairigh from PVPC noted that after consultation with Mr. Tyler and Mr. Gaudette she would like the Board to consider design improvements for Wall Street, Cherry Street, and Lyloyd Dyer Drive for the planning portion of the FY16 CDBG project and physical improvements to Chestnut Street. The total grant application amount is \$800,000.

7:30 p.m. – Public Hearing: Alcohol License Transfer from Drake Petroleum Company, Inc. d/b/a/ XTRA Mart to Algoo & Sons, Inc. d/b/a/ Spencer Express Mart

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing opened at 7:33 pm.

Attorney Leslie St. Germain, with McDermott, Quilty & Miller LLP was present and represented Mr. Ramkumar Algoo on the application for a transfer of a Wine & Malt Beverages License of Drake Petroleum, Inc. d/b/a/ Xtra Mart. Ms. St. Germain reported that aside from the license transfer with Mr. Algoo as the proposed manager of record, there will be no other changes to the operation. This is solely an administrative transaction; even the current employees will remain. Mr. Algoo is certified in Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS).

A packet of information was previously submitted including all documents as required by the ABCC and the Town of Spencer.

The hearing was opened to public at 7:37 pm.

Resident Rodney Foisy spoke on behalf of Mr. Algoo noting his approval for the transfer of license.

At 7:40 pm the hearing was closed.

A motion to approve the transfer of a Wine & Malt Beverages License as discussed from Drake Petroleum Company, Inc. d/b/a/ XTRA Mart, to Algoo & Sons, Inc. d/b/a/ Spencer Express Mart (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Vote to approve the Request from Charlie's Diner for a Change of Hours to serve alcohol on Sundays at 10 am in accordance with MGL c. 138 §15

A motion to approve the request from Charlie's Diner for a Change of Hours to serve alcohol on Sundays at 10 am in accordance with MGL c. 138 §15 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0

Old Business:

Fall Special Town Meeting Summary

Mr. Gaudette reported that the November 19th Special Town Meeting went well and information provided to the public was well received.

Town Administrator's Report:

Discuss FY2017 Budget Goals

Mr. Gaudette will finalize the FY2017 Budget Packets for his staff after Thanksgiving and distribute on December 3rd. He noted that multiple staff members are struggling to meet departmental needs

within existing budget parameters and will provide an impact statement to the Board on what it will take to turn back a level service budget.

Mr. Pepe noted that as result of the changes in the FY15 Budget, he would like to see a report on the impact for affected departments.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens was happy to report that the first issue of The New Spencer Sun has been published by the Celebrate Spencer History Committee.

Citizen Input

Board Member and Staff Comments

The Christmas Parade of Lights will be held on December 5th with a rain date of December 6th .

Mr. Pepe said the closure of the State Police Barracks in Brookfield will be a loss to the surrounding area.

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

The Executive Session was postponed to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Letter on Tax Rates from Principal Assessor Linda LeBlanc
CDBG FY16-18 Strategy & FY13 Funds
Alcohol License Transfer from Drake Petroleum Co. to Algoo & Sons, Inc