



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 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 6:00 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.

Chairman Woodbury announced that Selectmen Pepe will participate remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Minutes

A motion to approve the Business Meeting of September 28, 2015 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications:

None

Old Business

Action Item: Appoint (2) BOS Members to the Building Reuse and Landfill Solar Committees

Mr. Gaudette reported that with the recent adoption of Building Reuse and Landfill Solar Committees, two Board members need to be appointed to each. It was suggested that Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. Pepe be appointed to the Building and Reuse and Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. Stevens to the Landfill Solar.

A motion to appoint Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. Pepe as members of the Building and Reuse Committee (Stevens/Fritze) passed 5/0.

A motion to appoint Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. Stevens as members of the Landfill Solar Committee (C. Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Amend Prouty Park Charge (4/5 vote required)

Administrator Gaudette reported that in light of State funding for the Veterans Memorial having been restored this year, the Prouty Park Charge has been revised to indicate the date of the spending requirement as 2016. Also, U & F Superintendent Steve Tyler and an

additional member of the Exchange Club have been appointed. The Town will work with the State to handle the funds. Opportunity for public input will be available in the form of public meetings.

A motion to amend the Amend the Prouty Park Committee Charge with the changes as discussed (Stevens/Fritze) passed 5/0.

A motion to appoint Selectmen Fritze as the BOS member to the Prouty Park Committee (Stevens/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Authorize the Town Administrator to sign PILOT Agreements for the St. Joseph's Abby Solar Project pending Board of Assessors Approval

The Administrator advised the Board that the Town Meeting approved PILOT Agreements are now ready to move forward and he advised the Board to authorize him as the signatory for all related documents for the ten agreements.

A motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign PILOT Agreements for the St. Joseph's Abby Solar Project, pending Board of Assessors Approval (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 5/0.

New Business

6:15 PM – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Performance Hearing - Chris Dunphy, PVPC

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing at 6:15 pm.

Chris Dunphy and Elizabeth Rairigh with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) were present to discuss the existing CDBG grants and future development strategy.

Mr. Dunphy reported that the FY13 CDBG grant for Spencer in partnership with North Brookfield is now in process of closing and will be finalized in December. Also winding down is the FY14 project for the work on Mechanic Street and the design work for Chestnut Street. The infrastructure portion of the project was awarded to Borges construction and is now 90% complete. Mr. Dunphy noted his satisfaction with the work done by Borges and commended Steve Tyler for spearheading the efforts of this complex project. Final paving will take place in the spring.

Mr. Gaudette showed pictures of large trucks parking on the new Mechanic Street sidewalks. There is concern that this is jeopardizing the project. Mr. Fritze will address directly with any businesses involved.

Mr. Dunphy noted that the Town hired Fay Spoffard & Thorndike (FST) for the future design of Chestnut St. There will be additional community based meetings held to engage business and residents in the area.

There was discussion on Spencer's future for the CDBG program. Mr. Dunphy reminded the Board that the CDBG is a federal program administered through HUD with \$3.5 billion in funds annually. The majority of funding is dispersed directly to entitlement cities and the amount left is provided to the States to disperse between mini entitlement cities and smaller communities. Communities are ranked in various areas to obtain a score based on need. Spencer lost 4 overall score points this year, placing the Town in a position that makes it difficult to obtain funding. There was discussion on the scoring being flawed and Mr. Dunphy noted that DHCD are conducting a comprehensive review process on the scoring for next year.

Ms. Rairigh reported there will be an outreach strategy for folks on Chestnut Street to get them involved in the plan. At least two simultaneous activities are required for the CDBG grant. The Board needs to decide what to pair with the Chestnut Street construction. The application will be for \$800,000. Projects for the slum and blight area as designated by the state will help to rectify areas of blight and serve the low income population. Ms. Rairigh asked if the Board wants to pursue another application and if so, to determine likely candidates for that application. She will return in November to discuss strategy.

The hearing closed at 7:15 pm.

A motion to authorize the PVPC to pursue the FY16 CDBG Grant Application for Chestnut Street, with another project to be determined (Stevens/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Review Calendar

The Fall Special Town Meeting calendar was reviewed.

Review Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

The Administrator provided an update on the November 19th Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant which is set to close on October 26th. There are currently 17 Articles.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens noted he is looking forward to moving the Economic Development Committee forward and will be meeting with Parks & Rec Chairman to gear up for summer.

Mr. Gaudette mentioned that the FMPC met last week to discuss roads project. Public hearings will be held over the winter.

Citizen Input

Representative Berthiaume was in to provide updates:

- The Annual Halloween Party will be held on October 31st at the Town Hall from 6:30 to 8:00
- The Christmas Parade will be held on December 5th with an inclement weather date of December 7th.
- He asked the Board to restore Town funding for parades. A line item will be added to the budget for Town Meeting.

Board Member & Staff Comments

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant & Calendar