



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: April 11, 2016 – 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,
Member Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:11 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Pepe was able to attend the meeting.

Minutes:

Vote to Approve Executive Session of February 22, 2016, Workshop Meeting of March 21, 2016 and Business Meeting of March 28, 2016.

Mr. Stevens asked to delay the approval of Executive Session until the next meeting until he can forward his suggested revision.

A motion to Approve Workshop Meeting of March 21, 2016 and Business Meeting of March 28, 2016 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications:

Amelia Ritner – Discuss Local Festival Event

Resident Amelia Ritner announced that she is organizing a “Local Fest” event at Klems on August 20th with the goal of helping people purchase locally produced goods. The event will benefit Central Mass Grown.

Mr. Pepe mentioned that the Board has discussed holding a Farmers Market at the Spencer Fairgrounds. Ms. Ritner said she is happy to help coordinate and will reach out to Rich Lapierre who is a member of the Agricultural Commission.

New Business:

Discussion: Town Administrator Review Process

Mr. Gaudette provided an Employee Performance Evaluation form and will submit his Goals and Accomplishments for further discussion at the April 25th meeting.

Action Item: Re-Appoint Town Administrator as Chief Procurement Officer

A motion to Re-Appoint the Town Administrator as Chief Procurement Officer for the Town (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Old Business:

Meritorious Award: Ballot Collection from Selectmen

Ballots were collected. The winner will be presented with a plaque at the May 5th Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

FY2017 Budget Update

The Draft Warrant and FY17 Budget Pro Forma were reviewed. Mr. Gaudette reported that the only change is with Fire Department salaries which is over by \$12,000 due to a high number of calls. He proposed increasing Article 1 by \$12,000 and delaying the Capital Request for Item #6 "Radio Communications Enhancement" which can wait until the fall Special Town Meeting.

Mr. C. Woodbury suggested purchasing a smaller SUV for the Animal Control Officer to save on expenses. Mr. Gaudette noted that the Police Dept. normally provides Animal Control with one of their older vehicles.

Mr. C. Woodbury asked about increasing Parks & Rec fees to cover their expenses. Mr. Stevens will invite the Parks & Rec Chair to a future meeting for discussion.

Mr. Pepe would like the Board to institute an annual capital walkthrough. The Board agreed.

A line item will be added for a new dump/plow truck for the Highway Department.

Action Item: Discussion and Vote on engaging in the process to change employee health insurance benefits under MGL c. 32B, §21-23

The Administrator reported that in 2011 MGL c. 32B, §21-23 was amended to grant relief to allow communities to make design plan changes to employee health plans without going through the Collective Bargaining process. FY17 will have a 12.8% increase in health insurance costs over last year which cannot be sustained by the Town. He advised the Board to enact this legislation. A deductible will be added to the plan and 25% of the increase will be returned to the employees during the first year. This change avoids an increase to the Town.

A motion to authorize the Administrator to engage in the process to change employee health insurance benefits under MGL c. 32B, §21-23 (Pepe/Stevens) all in favor 4-0.

Action Item: Vote to Close and Set the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Warrant Articles #1-27 were reviewed. Changes include Article #1 increased by \$12,380; Article #17 has reduced by \$12,380.

A motion to approve all except Article #19, #23, #24 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4-0.

Discussion on Article #19 Roads Project - The Administrator will provide further clarification at Town Meeting that this it is a Debt Exclusion Question. He also has a flyer being distributed in the New Leader.

A motion to approve Article #19 as written (C. Woodbury/Pepe) passed 4-0.

Article #23 Stormwater Management – Mr. Stevens asked if this will this affect the streamlining process being discussed by Economic Development Committee. Mr. Gaudette said if a project requires stormwater management, then yes it would.

A motion to approve Article #23 as written (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4-0.

Article #24 Fences & Hedges – Chairman Woodbury asked if fence installation will require a permit. Mr. Gaudette said yes, if over a certain height.

A motion to approve Article #24 as written (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4-0.

A motion to Close and Set the May 10th Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4-0.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe mentioned that members of the Economic Development Committee did some cleaning at the Sugden Building and will meet with Bay Path to discuss improving the facade.

Citizen Input

Carl Kwiatkowski said water and sewer bills went up by 26%. Mr. Gaudette noted they have been trying to balance the needs of the community and the increase was necessary.

Board Member and Staff Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials
FY17 Budget Packet & Draft Warrant
MGL c. 32B, §21-23