



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: April 25, 2016 – Workshop Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Great Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Clerk C. Woodbury, Member 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 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

A motion to Approve Workshop Meeting of February 22, 2016 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications:

None

New Business

Public Hearing #4 - Comprehensive Roads Project Joint Meeting with the Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC)

The hearing opened at 6:10 pm. Mr. Gaudette summarized the presentation and presented the fourth and final Power Point on the Comprehensive Road Improvements Plan. He reiterated that voters will be asked to authorize the amount for borrowing at the Annual Town Meeting and determine whether or not to allow a Debt Exclusion for the project at Town Election.

Details of Chapter 90 Funding and limitations of excise tax revenues were discussed detailing the financial restrictions to properly maintain the roads. Several major projects have been funded by Chapter 90; however the current revenue structure is insufficient to sustain the cost to maintain the roads.

Spencer's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score is 51.2 on a scale of 1 to 100 and is considered poor in comparison with other communities. There is a \$34 million backlog, which will be reduced as roads are improved. After receiving feedback from the public, the Board agreed that a \$19 million Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion would be the most attainable number at this time to decrease the backlog and maintain the road network.

The impact of \$19 million will add \$1.01 to the tax rate and takes place in FY18 after other debt has been retired. The increase will be \$218 per year on the average home valued at \$200,000. The project will be phased in over a 3-5 year period.

Residents Heidi Franken-Malone and Carol MacPhearson spoke in favor of the project. Ms. MacPhearson pointed out that \$9 million was requested by the former Utilities & Facilities Superintendent ten years ago to address the backlog at that time and the number has grown exponentially since that time.

Resident Al Shedyak pointed out that the poor condition of the roads also increases the cost to maintain Town vehicles which increases the cost to the taxpayers.

The Board agreed that upgrading the conditions of the roads is a wise investment now and for the future.

The hearing was closed at 7:05 pm. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials
Comprehensive Roads Project Presentation #4