



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: February 22, 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 6:00 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: Executive Session of August 10, 2015, Business Meeting and Executive Session of January 11, 2016, and Workshop Meeting of January 20, 2016**

*A motion to approve the Executive Session of August 10, 2015, Business Meeting and Executive Session of January 11, 2016, and Workshop Meeting of January 20, 2016 (Stevens/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

### **Communications: Employee Introductions – Police Officers Peter Levesque and Jason Strniste and Police Dispatcher Kim Thebeau**

Police Sergeant Befford introduced Dispatcher Kim Thebeau and Officers Peter Levesque and Jason Strniste. The Board welcomed them.

Chairman Woodbury announced that nomination forms for the Meritorious Service Award should be submitted to the Board of Selectmen's Office by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Forms are available on the Town Website at [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov), or at the Town Administrator's Office.

### **New Business:**

#### **Discussion: Annual Meeting with Legislative Delegation Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant**

The Board and the Administrator welcomed Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant and thanked them for coming to the annual meeting.

#### **FY2017 State Budget – H1 Budget, Senate and House Outlooks**

Senator Gobi provided a handout of the Governor's FY17 House Budget summary. She reported that the State is in danger of having the bond rating go down unless additional money is put into the rainy day fund. She noted an increase in funding for substance abuse to help with the opioid epidemic, which claims at least four lives per day in Massachusetts alone.

Senator Gobi reported on the following:

#### **FY2016 State Budget – Revenues, 9C Cuts, GIC Financial Stability**

The Governor made 9 C cuts, with tourism among them; she will debate the cut when the House Budget comes out in April.

### **Chapter 70 Funding/Regional Schools – Foundation Budget Study**

The Chapter 70 Review Committee is in force with recommendations for full Circuit Breaker funding and additional increases for Regional School Transportation.

### **Chapter 74 Legislation – Nonresident Voke Transportation Bill**

There are Bills currently in Committee and more will be known by the end of March.

### **Chapter 90 Funding and Route 31 South Update**

The hope is to increase Chapter 90 funding from \$200 to 300 million. There is money available in a Bond Bill for Charlton Road.

### **Howe State Park Funding Restoration/ Tourism Promotion Assistance from State**

DCR was hit hard with reductions, which ties in with tourism. One idea is to form a “Friends” group to raise funds.

### **State Pension Reforms/Unfunded Liability Assistance from State**

This is a big issue with a \$30 billion deficit and will not be fully funded until 2040. Cost containment is needed; pharmaceuticals are extremely expensive.

The Senator noted that Charter Schools may be on the November Election Ballot and is concerned it will be a problem for public schools. A compromise Bill is being worked on to prevent it from going to ballot. Another Bill of concern is to legalize marijuana, after seeing the high costs in Colorado; this is not a good situation for our State.

Representative Durant noted that they are working to add funding in multiple areas of the Budget, including regional school transportation at 80%, and Chapter 90 Roads funding. He agreed that the Marijuana Question is a problem. Many people don't understand the ramifications. If passed, the State will be in trouble.

Representative Berthiaume pointed out that the revenue received from the legalization of marijuana in Colorado was ¼ of what they anticipated, with costs far exceeding any revenue. It doesn't make sense to legalize marijuana when there is an existing epidemic due to drug use and costs associated with it.

Selectmen Pepe asked the Reps to continue to advocate for additional funding for schools, Route 31, and pension reform.

Chairman Woodbury thanked the Legislative Delegation for their time and efforts.

### **Action Item: Vote to authorize additional Snow & Ice expenditures in accordance with MGL c. 44, §31D**

U & F Superintendent Tyler reported that although snow has been light this year, there were several

Ice-related events and asked for a \$100,000 increase to offset the \$64,000 deficit and have funds available for the remainder of the season.

*A motion to authorize \$100,000 in additional Snow & Ice expenses (Pepe/C. Woodbury) 4/0.*

**Action Item: Place remaining Selectman's & Water Commissioner Terms on the Annual Election Ballot**

Chairman Woodbury reported that Selectman Fritze resigned his position as a member of the Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioner.

*A motion to place the remaining terms as discussed on the Annual Election ballot for vote (Pepe/C. Woodbury)4/0.*

Administrator Gaudette offered his thanks to Mr. Fritze noting all he has done for the Town and extends his best wishes. Chairman Woodbury and the Board agreed noting he was generous with his knowledge and expertise and truly cared about the Town.

**Old Business:**

**Action Item: Lake Street School**

The Board toured the building. A decision to winterize and close the building needs to be made. The estimate is \$4,000 to winterize.

*A Motion to winterize and close the building and for the Administrator to hire a contractor to perform the work (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

Mr. Pepe suggests the Board tour DPHS. Mr. Gaudette will coordinate with Highway Foreman Eben Butler.

Mr. C. Woodbury would like to see the land in front of Lake Street School be kept as a community park. Mr. Gaudette said a Request for Proposal can be crafted with restrictions; however it may be more valuable if kept it as a whole.

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Initial FY2017 Budget Preparation**

The Administrator reported that the initial FY17 Budget outlook is not positive. He reviewed the increases for the expected tax levy, estimated "cherry" sheet receipts, and local receipts, and after the offsets, the new revenue is forecasted at \$343,008. On the expense side, the Operating Budget has a minimal proposed increase of \$30,100 over the FY16 amended budget. In order to balance the budget, general government requests were reduced by \$288,594. Adjusted figures will be provided after numbers from the SEBRSD are available. Transportation costs need to be added as well.

**Action Item: Vote to Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

*A motion to open the May 5, 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

**Discussion: Initial Capital Requests for Review by the Capital Committee**

Mr. Gaudette noted that presentations on capital requests will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> and invited the Board to attend. Mr. Pepe said they are looking to improve the criteria and point system rankings.

### **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pepe noted:

The EDC agreed to provide assistance to individuals and groups wanting to hold events or look for business opportunities in Town.

The FMPC has been asked to reconvene to devise a financial policy for the allocation of free cash.

### **Citizen Input**

None

### **Board Member and Staff Comments**

Mr. Pepe expressed sadness over the passing Mr. David Durgin and offered heartfelt condolences to the Durgin family. Dave will be sorely missed.

Mr. Gaudette offered his sympathy to the family of Marie Vandale who passed away on February 6. Marie worked in the Treasurer/Collectors Office for many years and will be greatly missed.

### **Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate.**

*At 8:16 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, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

### **Referenced Materials**

FY17 Initial Budget Packet