



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, January 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, Members Fritze & Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:06 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 Business Meeting of December 14, 2015 and Workshop of December 21, 2015 (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/0. Fritze abstained

Citizen Input

Ellen Sousa, 88 Wire Village Road spoke on behalf of the Spencer/Leicester Common Ground Land Trust whose mission is to work with land owners to protect key properties from being developed and said there will be a few significant properties coming out of Chapter 61A in the near future.

Mr. Gaudette said there is nothing in process for any specific properties at this time and any further discussion on specific properties will have to wait until the appropriate time.

Communications

None

Old Business

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing & Action Item: FY2016 CDBG Application Submission Approval (PVPC – Elizabeth Rairigh)

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Gaudette introduced Elizabeth Rairigh from PVPC. She is here to discuss the FY16 CDBG grant application and obtain feedback from the public.

Ms. Rairigh reported that the CDBG is a highly competitive grant, which Spencer has been the recipient of over the past few years. PVPC is submitting the FY16 grant application on behalf of the Town in February for up to \$800,000 of proposed improvements in accordance with Spencer's Community Development Strategy (CDS). The CDS lists priority projects and includes basic infrastructure on Chestnut Street and design improvements for Cherry, Wall, & Lloyd Dyer Streets.

There hearing was opened to the public.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Pepe asked if grant money would be impacted in the event of budget cuts at the State level. Mr. Gaudette said grant funding is not technically part of the operating budget; therefore it would be unlikely.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:30 pm (Pepe /C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion for authorization to submit the proposed FY2016 Spencer Community Development Fund I Grant application to the DHCD in an amount not to exceed \$800,000, as detailed in the public hearing and to include funding for the Chestnut Street Improvement Project, and the design of the Cherry-Wall-Lloyd Dyer Area Improvement Project. (Pepe /C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion for the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign all required forms, documents, and authorizations pertaining to the proposed FY2016 Spencer Community Development Fund I Grant application (Pepe/ Stevens) passed 5/0.

New Business

FY2017 Budget Kick-off with SEBRSD Superintendent Crowe and District Comptroller Suter

This item has been postponed until the January 25th meeting.

Action Item: Vote to Approve Request of Fish & Game Club for Alcohol License “Change of Manager”

Spencer Fish and Game Club President Bill Edwards, Vice President Vic LaCroix, and Board of Directors member James Earl were present. Mr. Edwards said the Fish and Game Club is applying for a Change of Manager for the Alcohol License to designate James Earl as the new manager. All required documents have been submitted.

A motion to approve the request for Alcohol License “Change of Manager” to James Earl as the new manager for the Spencer Fish & Game Club (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

All necessary documents will be submitted to the ABCC for final approval.

Action Item: Relocation of the Snowbirds Trail Easement at Landfill Cap (U&F Superintendent Tyler and Snowbirds Representative Brad Rand)

U&F Superintendent Tyler has been working with the Snowbirds to relocate the Landfill portion of the trail.

Brad Rand, Vice President of the Snowbirds presented the proposed trail showing it being rerouted by Flexcon, which avoids the landfill cap area. Trail markers will be installed by the Transfer Station and the plan is to clean up and close off access in the spring.

Mr. C. Woodbury wants to open the trail for use by ATV's and not just for snowmobiles. Mr. Tyler said ATV use is not compatible for the trail and pointed out ATV's are not permitted on DCR land or on other trails.

Mr. Gaudette said the Snowbirds are a formalized group who has done a good job managing and maintaining these trails. At this time a decision to relocate trail for this group is what is before the Board; a discussion on who else can use the trail can take place at a future date.

A motion to relocate the Snowbirds Snowmobile Trail as presented and discussed and to label the trail, subject to approval by Utilities and Facilities and Conservation Commission (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: DCR Support Letter for Rail Trail Improvements Phase II

A motion to authorize Chairman Woodbury to send a letter of support to DCR for Rail Trail Improvements Phase II (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report:

FY2017 Budget Update

Mr. Gaudette confirmed that the Legislators will attend the February 22nd meeting. He asked Board Members to forward any items they would like to discuss by January 25th.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens:

- Is meeting with P&R to work to restore programs for Luther Hill Park
- Working with Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce
- The Economic Development Committee will have its first meeting on January 23rd

Citizen Input

Mr. Pepe read a letter from Carol McPherson requesting to increase the Police Department budget due to Public Safety concerns.

Mr. Stevens:

- It was great to see volunteers cleaning Depot Trail
- Public access to the Browning Pond Ramp is a work in progress

Carl Kwiatkowski, 113 Meadow Road suggested the Town have free bands/entertainment at the Spencer Fairgrounds. Mr. Pepe said this has been discussed and will be reviewed.

Mr. G. Woodbury commended the Fire Department and those from surrounding communities that assisted in putting out the recent fires in Town, one on Main Street and the other on Cherry Street. He also thanked the Highway, Police, and Spencer Rescue Squad for their efforts.

Board Member and Staff Comments

None

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, for the purposes of discussing contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and §21(a), ¶6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate

At 7:30 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, and §21(a), ¶6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, as the chair has decided that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Pepe/Fritze) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury -yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

FY2016 CDBG Application
Fish & Game Application
Diagram of Snowbirds Trail Rerouted
DCR Support Letter for Depot Trail