



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: March 14, 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 6:09 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: Business Meeting of February 22, 2016, and Workshop Meeting of February 29, 2016

A motion to approve the Business Meeting and Executive Session of February 22, 2016 and Workshop Meeting of February 29, 2016 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

Mary Braney announced that the Mass Memories Road Show will be held on Sunday, April 3rd at the Town Hall.

Communications:

Chairman Woodbury announced that nomination forms for the Meritorious Service Award should be submitted to the Board of Selectmen's Office by March 21st. Forms are available on the Town Website at www.spencerma.gov or at the Town Administrator's Office.

Selectmen Pepe announced a Fundraiser will be held on March 19th at the Congregational Church in support of the Durgin family.

New Business:

Action Item: Vote to Approve One Day Alcohol License for Mary Queen of the Rosary

Sandra Fritze, representing the MQR was present to request a One-day Alcohol License for the annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner.

A motion to approve the One Day Alcohol License for Mary Queen of the Rosary (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Action Item: Vote to Approve the Petition of the Fish & Game for New Officer & Directors and the Petition for a Change of Manager for their Alcohol License

Mr. Gaudette noted that at the Board recently approved the request of the Spencer Fish & Game Club for a Change of Manager, however it was returned to us by the ABCC with “no action taken” since the Club had not updated their Officers and Directors, therefore the existing Officers did not have the authority to appoint the new manager. They have since updated their Officers and Directors, completed all the required ABCC documents, and at this time are requesting approval for the new Officers and Directors and for the Change of Manager once again. If approved by the Board, the packet will be sent to the ABCC for final approval.

A motion to approve the Petition of the Fish & Game Club for a Change of Manager to James Earle; and to approve the Petition for New Officers and Directors to: William Edwards, Victor Lacroix, Annette Lacroix, Holly Collette, George Collette, Gordon Latour, Keith Morrison, Todd Vitkos, James Earle, Wesley Robbins, and Paul Cournoyer (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

The American Legion and Knights of Columbus were sent notices in February informing them that they need to update their Officers and Directors with the Board and the ABCC to be in compliance.

Action Item: Appoint BOS Member to the DPHS Building Committee

Mr. Pepe noted that the East Brookfield BOS are not interested in participating the DPHS Committee at this time; nevertheless Mr. Gaudette reported that the School Committee wants to move forward.

Mr. Stevens pointed out this Committee will also do a needs assessment and said he is willing to serve in this capacity.

A motion to name Selectmen Stevens as member of the DPHS Building Committee (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

6:15 p.m. – National Grid Pole Hearing: Request to install 12 jointly owned poles; relocate 7 jointly owned poles; & install 62 feet of underground conduit – N. Spencer Road & West Street

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing at 6:20 pm.

Brandon Carr and Ken Dobe were present to represent National Grid.

Mr. Carr reported that National Grid is installing a new system that will allow the Abby Solar project to feed into the Grid Station. The proposal is to build a double circuit that will require some taller poles and stronger guy-wires.

The hearing was opened to public at 6:30 pm.

Kurt Nordquist of Gale Drive expressed concern since there is an existing problem of double poles with over fifty in Town. He asked the Board to postpone the hearing until after the majority of double poles have been removed.

Selectmen Pepe said this has been an ongoing issue dating back over 6 years.

Selectmen C. Woodbury pointed out that the older double poles are very dangerous and must be removed. Chairman Woodbury noted that a few are on blocks which is unacceptable from a safety standpoint. Administrator Gaudette will provide a listing prioritizing those for the quickest removal.

Kevin Shaughnessy from National Grid was present and has been working with the Town to address this issue. He agreed that the number of double poles in Spencer are high, with a current total of 84. 17 are being removed this week, 56 are waiting for Verizon to transfer their wires and 9 are waiting on Charter. He will meet with Mr. Gaudette and Verizon to work on a removal plan.

There was discussion on reconvening the hearing on March 28th to allow for a removal plan. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Pepe were concerned about putting the Abby project in jeopardy and Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. C. Woodbury had safety concerns.

Mr. Gaudette said he is confident that Mr. Shaughnessy will work to get the concerns of the Board resolved.

A motion to close the hearing at 7:05 pm and to reconvene on March 28th, pending a meeting with Verizon to address concerns with double poles (C. Woodbury/Pepe) passed 3-1 (Stevens, no).

Mr. Stevens said he does not support making a point on an issue unrelated to the the project before them.

Mr. C. Woodbury said safety is his top priority.

Administrator Gaudette will remind the State Representatives of the need to address this issue.

Old Business:

Appoint BOS Member to Veterans Memorial at Prouty Park Committee

A motion to appoint Tony Pepe to represent the Board as a member of the Veterans Memorial at Prouty Park Committee (Stevens/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Town Administrator's Report

FY2017 Budget Update

Mr. Gaudette is waiting for the SEBRSD Budget and will provide an update at the March 28th meeting. At that time the Board will also vote on which questions to place on the Ballot, if any. There was discussion on whether or not to go with a pyramid scenario which places all three Roads Project funding scenarios on the Ballot. Mr. Gaudette does not recommend that approach since those not educated in the process will automatically choose the lowest number.

List of Articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board reviewed the proposed list of Warrant Articles. A draft Warrant will be provided at the March 28th meeting.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe reported that the Capital Planning Committee finalized the scoring of capital requests.

Mr. Stevens noted that the Economic Development Committee is moving forward and addressing fundamental issues. He was also pleased to see that the Barnes Hill House has been accepted by the National Register of Historic Place, noting it was a great accomplishment for the owner.

Mr. Pepe was approached by a member of the Agricultural Commission to assist them.

Citizen Input

Al Atchue of Meadow Road advised against offering more than one road funding scenario on the Ballot as he believes it will result in the lower number for those not aware of the project details.

Board Member and Staff Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Fish & Game Alcohol License Petitions
National Grid Pole Petition
FY17 Budget Packet