



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: March 28, 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 6:06 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 the Executive Session of February 22, 2016 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

#### **Vote to Release 2015 (previously approved) Executive Sessions of March 3, May 11, June 8, July 13, July 20, & August 10.**

*A motion to Release 2015 Executive Sessions of March 3, May 11, June 8, July 13, July 20, & August 10 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

### **Citizen Input**

Kurt Nordquist, Gale Dr., thanked the Board and National Grid for their commitment to removing the double poles.

### **Communications:**

#### **Employee Introduction: James LaPlante, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent**

Mr. Gaudette introduced James LaPlante who was recently promoted to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. The Board welcomed him.

Sewer Commissioners Frank White and Larry Dufault were also present. Mr. White noted that Mr. LaPlante has experience with both water and sewer treatment and is a great fit for this position. Mr. LaPlante said he was grateful to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

### **New Business:**

**Action Item: Vote to Approve Common Victualler License Request of Marie Sheil for 6 West Main Street (Dashboard Diner)**

Marie Sheil reported that she purchased Maxi's Fun Food and would like to open the Dashboard Diner at that location.

Mr. Stevens asked what type of food will be served and the hours of operation. Ms. Sheil said it will be fresh fast food. Her plan is to open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm. It would be seasonal at this time; however she eventually hopes to make it year round operation.

*A motion to approve the Common Victualler License Request of Marie Sheil for the Dashboard Diner (Pepe/C. Stevens) passed 4/0.*

**Action Item: Vote to Approve the Request of the Spencer E. Brookfield Little League Parade on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am**

*A motion to approve the Request of the Spencer E. Brookfield Little League Parade on April 23 at 11 am (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

**Action Item: Vote to Approve the Request for an Entertainment License for Sunshine New England Music & Arts Festival on August 6, 2016 at the Spencer Fairgrounds**

Janet Zafiris of Southbridge reported that she would like to hold the Sunshine New England Music & Arts Festival at the Spencer Fairgrounds on August 6, 2016. The plan is to have eight live bands with James Montgomery as the headliner. Additional entertainment will include crafters, artists, food, and also beer and wine if the Board approves the 1-day Special Alcohol License.

Mr. Pepe asked if the alcohol will be consolidated to one area. Ms. Zafiris said all liquor sales/service will take place inside one of the buildings and wristbands will be issued to allow people to walk around the fenced-in grounds. Security will be on site to ensure no one leaves.

Mr. Stevens asked if they have their own security team monitoring. Ms. Zafiris said she has a volunteer security team and will also hire police details as required by the Chief.

Mr. Gaudette noted that a tech review meeting was held with the Fire, Police, Board of Health and Building Inspector, all will be involved in terms of details, camping, tents and food permits.

*A motion to approve the Entertainment License for the Sunshine New England Music & Arts Festival on August 6, 2016 at the Spencer Fairgrounds 10:30 am to 10:30 pm (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

**Action Item: Vote to Approve the Request for a 1-day Special Liquor License for Wine & Malt for Sunshine New England Music & Arts Festival on August 6, 2016 at the Spencer Fairgrounds**

*A motion to approve the Request for a 1-day Special Liquor License for Wine & Malt for Sunshine New England Music & Arts Festival on August 6, 2016 at the Spencer Fairgrounds contingent upon*

*proof of Alcohol Certification for all servers and \$1 million liquor liability insurance (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

**Action Item: Reappoint Patricia Woods as Registrar of Voters**

*A motion to reappoint Patricia Woods as Registrar of Voters (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

**Old Business:**

**Continued Public Hearing – 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 reconvened the hearing at 6:30 pm.

Brandon Carr and Kevin Shaughnessy were present to represent National Grid.

Administrator Gaudette held a meeting with Staff, National Grid, Verizon, Charter, and Chairman Woodbury earlier in the day to discuss the issue with double poles. The number of double poles has been reduced since the original Pole Hearing on March 14<sup>th</sup> and priorities were clarified. Mr. Shaughnessy explained problems with the old system which revealed more poles were actually in place than were documented. This has since been corrected. Verizon will work with National Grid to ensure the numbers are significantly reduced to a manageable number and will stay in touch with Mr. Gaudette on a biweekly basis.

Mr. Shaughnessy said that although some of the poles are not aesthetically pleasing, they are safely installed.

The hearing was closed at 6:36 pm. All were in favor.

*A motion to approve the request of National Grid to install 12 jointly owned poles; relocate 7 jointly owned poles; & install 62 feet of underground conduit at N. Spencer Road & West Street (Pepe/C. Woodbury) all in favor 4-0.*

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Continued Public Hearing: Comprehensive Roads Project Discussion**

Mr. Gaudette reviewed the FY17 Budget Calendar and noted that April 5<sup>th</sup> is last day to file written notice of ballot questions with the Town Clerk and with this being the last meeting before that deadline he advised the Board to continue discussion and have a formal vote to set the ballot question. He drafted two options, one as a Debt Exclusion and the other as a Stabilization Override. The estimated tax impact per household for \$34 million is \$430; for \$19 million is \$230; and for \$10 million is \$76.

- Option 1 is for a Debt Exclusion Question which does not have a dollar amount listed on the Ballot, instead the amount is authorized at Town Meeting.

- Option 2 is for an Override Question which does list the amount and in this case is a Capital Stabilization Fund, specifically for road projects.

In the case of a Debt Exclusion Question, State Statute allows for a maximum of ten years borrowing for pavement. Mr. Gaudette asked Senator Gobi to work to increase the legislation to thirty years.

The hearing was open to the public at 6:55 pm.

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd., asked about bridge funds being provided at the federal level. Mr. Gaudette said it isn't something that can be guaranteed or part of the budget.

Frank White, R Jones Rd., said his preference is a Debt Exclusion.

Heidi Brenke-Malone, Mechanic St., was concerned over home values dropping and urged the Board to consider the highest funding option to allow for the best streets and prevent further home value devaluation.

Mr. Gaudette advised the Board to take into account feedback from public and consider a Debt Exclusion Question. The majority of people like to see finite options.

Chariman Woodbury was concerned that Debt Exclusion will not be enough to maintain the roads and believes an Override is needed. He pointed out the cost is \$3.5 million for Route 31 South and that's just road reclamation, more is needed for drainage.

Selectmen C. Woodbury said he feels a fiscal responsibility for future generations, noting this is an investment for the future of the Town.

Selectmen Stevens said \$34 million is a lot for the Town to take on and is concerned about other funding needs yet to come. He wants to see a balanced approach.

Selectmen Pepe wants to proactively manage projects such as this and pointed to a 2011 Town-wide survey which showed overwhelming public support for financing roads projects. He strongly supports a comprehensive roads project and recommends a \$19 million Debt Exclusion Question to balance the ability for tax payers and doesn't paralyze other parts of the budget, including education.

Administrator Gaudette pointed out that the \$19 million is an estimate based on a certain amount of interest, current pricing, and other factors to provide the best estimate. Superintendent Tyler will work hard to make every penny go as far as possible. He said that the impact to the average household on \$19 million is \$200 per year by waiting until next year when existing debt is paid off.

Mary Braney, Pine Acres, urged the Board to take action to get the full project funded and not settle for less.

Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. C. Woodbury were both in favor of moving forward with an Override in order to protect the investment being made.

The hearing was closed at 8:10 pm.

## **Action Item: Vote to Set Ballot Questions and Notify Town Clerk**

*A motion to fund a Comprehensive Roads Project at \$19 million (Pepe/Stevens) passed 4-0.*

*A motion to Set the financing mechanism as Debt Exclusion Question for the \$19 million (Pepe/Stevens) failed 2-2.*

Chairman Woodbury said he is firm on his stance for an Override as he believes this is the only way to protect this investment. After discussion, Mr. C. Woodbury asked if the project changes over 30 years, can an Override be voted out. Mr. Gaudette said that it can.

*A motion to Set the financing mechanism in the form of a debt exclusion for the \$19 million (Pepe/Stevens) passed 3-1.*

Chairman Woodbury asked for a revote stating that it's important for Board to be unanimous with such an important project.

*A motion to Set the financing mechanism in the form of a debt exclusion for the \$19 million (Pepe/Stevens) passed 4-0.*

## **FY2017 Budget Update**

The Administrator reported that the SEBRSD provided final budget figures and provided a finalized draft budget. He noted his appreciation to the District for working to develop a reasonable budget.

The FY17 Capital Ranking sheet was reviewed. Mr. Gaudette pointed out that the major concern for next year is not having enough free cash available for capital.

Mr. C. Woodbury suggested Parks & Rec look into raising fees charged to organizations using the facilities to offset maintenance costs.

Warrant Articles 1-27 were reviewed. Mr. Gaudette is working on obtaining a legislation change on language for borrowing. Town Counsel will review the final draft and the Board will vote on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board Liaison Reports**

None

## **Citizen Input**

Robert Ortiz, Jim Shedding, and Stephanie Kafferlein reported that they have been working with Mr. Stevens to coordinate a Town-wide yard sale. The goal is to get people more involved in the community.

*A motion that the Board of Selectmen will show full support of the Town-wide yard sale (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

## **Board Member and Staff Comments**

Mr. Stevens announced that the Mass Memories Road Show will be held on Sunday in the Great Hall.

Mr. Pepe mentioned that the Building Reuse, Agricultural Committee, and Landfill Solar Committee all held kick-off meetings last week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

### **Referenced Materials**

FY17 Budget Packet & Draft Warrant  
National Grid Pole Petition