



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: May 16, 2016 – Workshop Meeting  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Clerk C. Woodbury, Members Pepe, Hicks, and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:10 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board welcomed new member Dr. Ralph Hicks.

### **Tree Removal Near 264 Charlton Road**

Administrator Gaudette reported that a Tree Hearing was previously held as part of the MassDOT Safety Audit for the road improvement project for Charlton Road. Trees were identified along the road that have the potential to or have caused accidents and are recommended for removal.

Mary Ann Kauppila of 264 Charlton Road was concerned about the removal of trees in front of her property and noted that three different accidents occurred where trees were hit in front of her house and she's concerned if they're removed, people will drive into her house. She predicted there will be more accidents once the road is improved due to excessive speeding. She believes these trees also protect her property from wetlands.

U & F Superintendent Steven Tyler pointed out that this is not about the Kauppila property, it is about the safety of Route 31 as seen in the MassDOT Safety Audit. After a thorough review, those trees were selected to improve the safety of Route 31. They are Town owned and within a range of 10-15 feet off the road. He presented pictures of the trees and noted there will still be trees along the roadside. Drainage problems are unrelated to the trees and are due to the conditions along the road. Mr. Hicks asked if they would reconsider removing the smaller trees. Mr. Tyler noted that they are in the safety zone.

*After some discussion, a motion to remove the trees as stated and to have Mr. Tyler determine additional options to help prevent accidents, such as reflectors or strips (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.*

### **Action Item: vote to waiver 45-day requirement for SEBRSD E&D Capital Use**

Mr. Gaudette reported that the Board received a letter from SEBRSD Comptroller Gary Suter regarding a vote taken by the School Committee to amend the FY16 Budget to appropriate \$590,721 in E & D funds for various capital items, including asbestos removal. The request is for the Board to waive the 45 day requirement in order to allow them to move forward with the projects.

Selectmen Hicks recused himself noting he chairs the DPHS Improvement Committee.

Mr. Pepe said the District desperately needs these repairs. The Board agreed.

*A motion to waive the 45-day requirement for SEBRSD E&D Capital Use (Pepe/C. Woodbury) 4-1 abstained (Hicks).*

### **Town Election Follow-up**

The Board was impressed with the election turnout. All were very pleased with the passing of the

Comprehensive Roads Project. Mr. Pepe and Mr. G. Woodbury thanked Mr. Tyler, Mr. Gaudette, and the Financial Management Planning Committee for their efforts on this project.

The meeting adjourned 7:04 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

SEBRSD letter  
MassDOT Safety Audit