



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: October 12, 2016 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Stevens, Vice Chair C. Woodbury, Clerk Hicks, Members Pepe and G. Woodbury, and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:08 p.m. Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Workshop of September 19th and Business Meeting of September 26th (G. Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications:

Halloween Hours Trick or Treat Announcement

Chief Darrin set Trick-or-Treat hours from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on October 31st. The Annual Halloween Party will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. C. Woodbury suggested the option of holding Trick-or-Trick on a weekend night in the future since during the week it's difficult for parents to get the kids ready to go by 5:30. Mr. Gaudette will attempt to obtain feedback from the public to determine how to handle in the future. He noted the 5:30 timeslot was chosen for the daylight.

Early Voting for the National Election from October 24th to November 4th

Mr. Gaudette reported that for the first time in Massachusetts, Early Voting will be held from October 24th to November 4th. Voting will take place at the Town Hall.

Action Item: Vote to ban Electioneering during Early Voting

A motion to ban Electioneering at the Town Hall during the Early Voting timeframe (Hicks/G. Woodbury/) passed 5/0.

Old Business:

Joint Meeting with the SEBRSD Committee (Spencer Members Only) to make an appointment to fill a vacancy until the May 2017 Election

SEBRSD Committee Chair Martha Berthiaume introduced School Committee members Jim St. Peter, Jason Monette, and Wendy Pelchat. Ms. Berthiaume announced that at a Special Meeting, Spencer members unanimously voted to bring forth Richard D'Amato, Kurt Nordquist and Robert Ortiz to the Board to appoint one to fill a vacancy until the Election in May, 2017.

Mr. Stevens asked each candidate to introduce themselves and explain why they are interested in Serving on the Committee.

Mr. D'Amato said he spent his entire adult career in education and also served on the SEBRSDC Committee in the 1980's. He is retired from professional job but keeps himself current.

Mr. Nordquist noted that he has been in Spencer for thirty-two years and has previously served as a member of the SEBRSDC. He was successful in working with the Committee to pay off significant debt and avoid receivership and also negotiated a contract with the teachers and is willing to serve again.

Mr. Ortiz said he moved to Spencer three years ago and successfully coordinated the town-wide yard sale and has been looking for ways to get more involved in the community. He said his children have accepted the challenge to look for ways to improve the School and he believes in leading by example.

Some of the candidates' responses to various questions from the Board included:

Mr. D'Amato

- Believes that funds need to be prioritized and directed towards the students
- Is in favor of updating the District Agreement
- In terms of a new DPHS building, it would be wiser to move forward using small steps
- An adequate building and grounds crew is necessary for proper maintenance of all buildings and grounds
- In this position, he is ultimately responsible to the children of the District
- Will work to improve the rapport between parents and schools
- Will utilize volunteers
- Monthly maintenance report is a great idea

Mr. Nordquist

- Wants to see updated courses in Science and Language
- Is in favor of updating the District Agreement and noted that School Choice is having a negative affect
- Is in favor of remodeling the DPHS and has concerns over the affordability of a new building
- A fulltime maintenance crew is needed to property address issues
- Believes in a balance between spending and taxpayer funding

Mr. Ortiz

- Is looking to learn as much as possible working with fellow Committee Members
- Is in favor of updating the District Agreement and doing what it takes to prevent students from wanting to participate in School Choice
- Would like to see a new DPHS building, however he will need to see the numbers and find a balance
- Believes he is ultimately responsible to the citizens of Spencer
- Would like to work to bridge the gap between colleges and the high school to provide additional opportunities

Mr. Stevens explained that the Board and the four Spencer members of the SEBRSDC will now vote on nominees until a majority is reached.

A motion to nominate Mr. D'Amato as a member of the SEBRSDC until the May, 2017 Election (Hicks/Berthiaume) 4 yes; 5 no - motion failed.

A motion to nominate Mr. Ortiz as a member of the SEBRSDC until the May, 2017 Election (C. Woodbury/Pepe) passed 5/4.

Mr. Hicks suggested the Board revote in effort to show unanimous support for Mr. Ortiz.

A motion to nominate Mr. Ortiz a member of the SEBRSDC until the May, 2017 Election (Hicks/C. Woodbury) passed unanimously.

Action Item: Policy Adoption – Senior Center Behavior Policy

Mr. Gaudette provided the final policy as approved by Town Counsel.

A Motion to adopt the amended Senior Center Behavior Policy (Hicks/Pepe) passed 3/0. Mr. G. Woodbury and Mr. C. Woodbury abstained due to their relationships with the Senior Center Director.

New Business:

Action Item: Exchange Club Toll Booth on 11/5/16, rain date of 11/12/16

Sergeant Befford, a member of the Exchange Club requested permission for the Club to hold their Annual Toll Booth on 11/5/16 with a rain date of 11/12/16. All proceeds are used to provide winter coats for students in need.

A Motion to approve the request of the Exchange Club Toll Booth to hold a Toll Booth as discussed (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote on the 2016/2017 Winter Parking Ban

A Motion to approve the 2016/2017 Winter Parking Ban with no changes (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report:

Amendment for Roads Bill

Mr. Gaudette reported that as part of the FY16 vote to fund the Roads Project, a Home Rule petition was filed to allow the Town to borrow for 30 years. Henry Kahn, Legislative Director for Senator Gobi suggested the Board authorize an amendment to the Bill due to changes from the Municipal Modernizations Bill.

A motion to authorize the amendment of Senate Bill number 2300 with the following language:

Amend the bill (Senate, No. 2300), in Section 1, by striking out, in line 1, the words, "(1A). (4), (5), (6), (7), and (34)" and inserting in place thereof the following words: or (11)": and

In said section 1, by striking out, in line 3, the words "(1A). (4), (5), (6), (7), and (34)" and inserting in place thereof the following words: or (11)": and

by striking out section 2 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

"SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on November 8, 2016." (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

List of Potential Fall STM Articles

Mr. Gaudette reviewed a list of proposed Articles and will email a draft Warrant prior to the meeting on October 17th.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe attended a Celebration Committee Meeting where plans for the Halloween Party were finalized. Chairman Wendy Berthiaume is currently planning for the Christmas Parade of Lights and plans for a possible decorating contest, tree lighting ceremony and Christmas stroll are being discussed.

Mr. Hicks and Mr. C. Woodbury walked through the school buildings and were provided with a list of capital improvements. Discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Citizen Input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Gaudette announced that a pancake breakfast for the Fire and Police Departments and the SRS will be held at the Fire Station on Saturday. He offered his thanks to the E. Brookfield Fire Department for a donated fire truck to be stationed at the Abbey.

Mr. Stevens noted that Mr. Gaudette is one of two finalists for the Executive Director position in the Town of Wellesley. He thanked him for his ongoing commitment to the challenges that Spencer faces. Mr. Gaudette said he appreciates the level of professionalism he has received from his staff and the Board and said if this position doesn't pan out, he looks forward to continuing his work in Spencer and thoroughly enjoys his position here.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Senior Center Behavior Policy
Winter Parking Ban
Amendment for Roads Bills