



Board of the Board of Selectmen

Date: April 8, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall
Present: Chairman Howard, Vice-Chair Grigg, Clerk Hicks, Selectman Pepe, Selectman Woodbury, and Administrator Bridges
Remote: None

Call the Meeting to Order

At 6:00 pm Chairman Howard called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Announcement Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

None

Citizens Input

Kurt Nordquist, Gayle Drive:

- During the recent power outage, it took four days for Charter to restore his cable television.
- Claimed that fraud occurred regarding a letter the State sent to notify the Town that a new salt shed was needed; the letter was not seen by any of the Board Members or the Administrator at the time. Selectman Woodbury stated that there was no such letter.

Communications & Correspondence

The Board received a letter from the Spencer/East Brookfield Little League program requesting ARPA funds for their organization. Selectman Grigg and Pepe will work on a policy to determine whether to move forward with an ARPA program for nonprofits. Discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Review & Act on the Minutes of March 25, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2024 (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0.

Review & Act on the Executive Session Minutes of March 25, 2024, not to be released at this time

A motion to approve executive session minutes of March 25, 2024, not to be released at this time (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Review & Act to Approve & Release the Executive Session Minutes of January 8, 2024

A motion to approve & release the executive session minutes of January 8, 2024 (Woodbury/Grigg) passed 5/0.

New Business:

Review & Possible Action on the Request of Josh Sundberg, Bayberry Bowladrome, LLC, d/b/a Bayberry Bowling Center, located at 338 Main Street for a Wine & Malt Beverages On-Premises License Transfer Application

Josh Sundberg was present to request a Transfer of License for Bayberry Bowladrome, LLC, d/b/a Bayberry Bowling Center, located at 338 Main Street for an on-premises wine & malt beverages license. He recently purchased the property and wants to have the license transferred to him.

Dr. Hicks noted that Mr. Sundberg lives at 96 Hastings Road in Ashburnham and asked to have Ashburnham noted on the application to avoid confusion with Hastings Road in Spencer.

A motion to open the public hearing at 6:26 pm for Bayberry Bowladrome, LLC, d/b/a Bayberry Bowling Center (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Bernie Pellitier, former owner of Bayberry Bowling came forward in support the license transfer to Josh Sundberg. There were no other comments from the public.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:30 pm for Bayberry Bowladrome, LLC, d/b/a Bayberry Bowling Center (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.

A motion to approve the request of Josh Sundberg, Bayberry Bowladrome, LLC, d/b/a Bayberry Bowling Center, located at 338 Main Street for a Wine & Malt Beverages On-Premises License Transfer Application subject to ABCC approval (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 5/0

Review & Possible Action on the Pledge of License for the Wine & Malt Package Store License Transfer Application from 94 Spencer Express, LLC (Citgo) (license transfer application was previously approved on 2/26/2024)

Chairman Howard stated that the Transfer of License was approved by the Board on February 26, 2024. The applicant submitted documentation for a Pledge of License which allows the applicant to pledge the license to the bank as collateral for a loan, however the box for the Pledge was not checked on the application, therefore the Board needs to vote on whether to approve the Pledge.

A motion to approve the Pledge of License for the Wine & Malt Package Store License Transfer Application from 94 Spencer Express, LLC (Citgo) (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0

Capital Improvements Planning Committee – FY2025 Capital Plan Presentation

Review & Possible Action on the FY2025 Capital Plan

CIPC Chair Chris Woodbury reported that the Committee received twenty-six capital requests for FY2025 and heard presentations from department heads. Mindful of budget constraints, each item was carefully considered and scored with a final recommendation to fund twenty-two items totaling \$6,548,149 million.

Selectman Woodbury asked about the purchase of the Highway Department loader as opposed to a lease noting that interest rates are trending down and this will put the Town in a better position. Mr.

Bridges advised that with several active leases, payments have been stacking up and impacting the operating budget. Dr. Hicks suggests purchasing the loader outright instead of leasing it to avoid interest and fees. Ongoing discussion ensued and CIPC Chair Woodbury pointed out if the loader were leased now, it could be paid off early with free cash.

A motion to bring forward the CIPC plan for FY2025 (Shiver/Gleason) passed 3/0.

A motion to lease the loader to get it ordered (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 3/2 Pepe-no, Grigg-no.

Mr. Bridges will revise the Warrant and asked the CIPC to vote on the amendment.

A motion to lease the loader (Shiver/Gleason) passed 3/0.

The CIPC adjourned at 645 pm. All were in favor.

Chairman Howard thanked the members of the CIPC for their work on the FY2025 capital plan.

Town Administrator's Report

Review & Possible Action to Close & Sign the May 2, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Administrator Bridges indicated that the Warrant is ready to close and Town Counsel has reviewed the majority of it. He will revise the article for the front-end loader to indicate it is a lease.

A motion to close the May 2, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as amended (Hicks/Pepe) was not voted.

Selectman Woodbury said the Warrant should not close until everything complete and the Finance Committee and the Planning Board have made their recommendations. Finance Committee Chair Mary Braney said the Committee does not vote on their recommendations until after the Warrant is closed. Mr. Bridges pointed out that closing the Warrant only prevents the addition of new Articles, it does not prevent make changes to existing articles. Mr. Pepe said there is no harm in closing it and if there is a need, the Board could meet to reopen.

Mr. Bridges stated that if the Board prefers to change the sequence, it can be done next year.

A motion to close the May 2, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/Grigg) passed 4/1, Woodbury-no.

A motion to reschedule the May 6th Selectmen's meeting to May 9th (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Members of the Spencer Rescue Squad will be invited to the next meeting to honor their lifesaving actions.

Review the FY2025 Budget Calendar

The calendar was reviewed.

Reminder: Public Information Session April 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm on the Municipal Electricity Aggregation Plan

The public information session will be held on April 17th at 6:00 pm.

Citizen's Input

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Road: asked for clarification on the budget deficit. Dr. Hicks advised that one time funds were used to cover the deficit.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Selectman Woodbury: a financial management report was completed in 2017 and does not want to reinvent the wheel with future budget discussions.

Dr. Hicks: spoke on the significance of the historic Battle of Shiloh in honor of the 161st anniversary.

Selectman Pepe: agrees with Mr. Woodbury with regard to not reinventing the wheel on budget discussions and wants the Board and Administrator to work through the process.

Selectman Grigg: announced that the public information session will be held on April 17 for the municipal electricity aggregation plan.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A,21(a) (6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body: Sugden Building, 117 Main Street

At 7:10 pm a motion to enter Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A,21(a) (3), to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town and the Chair so declares: Massachusetts Broken Stone and to reconvene only to adjourn (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Adjournment

The Board reconvened from executive session at 7:55 pm only to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie,
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Bayberry Bowladrome and 94 Spencer Express license applications, FY2025 Capital Plan, May 2, 2024 ATM warrant