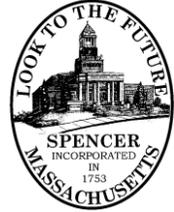


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: Monday, January 9, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Berthiaume, Vice Chair Pepe, Clerk Woodbury, Members Durant & Fritze, Town Administrator Gaudette, Administrative Assistant Torti

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Berthiaume called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 12, 2011 and Selectmen's Workshop of December 19, 2011 (Pepe/Fritze) passed 4/0 with Mr. Berthiaume abstaining from voting on the minutes of the 19th.

Citizen Input: none

Communications: Council on Aging – elimination of AARP TaxAide Program. Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the tax assistance usually provided to the Council on Aging for the seniors was no longer available due to a lack of volunteers. The COA sent a letter to the Board asking for their assistance in reinstating the service. The Board agreed to send a letter on behalf of the COA.

Old Business:

- a) Action Item: Vote to approve Fire Department's SCUBA Policy

A motion to approve the Fire Department SCUBA policy (Pepe/Durant) passed 5/0.

New Business:

- a) David Papagni, Bay Path Vocational High School: Capital Project Discussion.

Mr. Papagni, presented, along with input from Mark Lydon the Owner's Project Manager, David Eisenthal of Union Bank, and Michael McKeon the architect of record. Proposed is a project for an addition to Bay Path that will cost \$73.8 million. State reimbursements will cover 63% of the costs with the remaining 27% to be shared amongst the 10 participating towns over a 30 year period. 75% of the project involves code upgrades including asbestos abatement, water filtration and HVAC system upgrades. If only the code issues were addressed, it would cost \$15 million with no reimbursement from the state. The project is a no frills project, addressing classroom space and code upgrades to a building that is 40 years old, but well maintained. Mr. Papagni noted that the students and staff take great pride in their building. Presently there are 111 students from Spencer attending Bay Path.

Mr. Lydon next described the process that is underway which initially identifies spaces necessary for the student population, creates a condition assessment, determined that an addition and renovation was the optimum way to address those needs, and it is anticipated that MSBA will approve the project scope and budget. Once this has been done, the local approvals will be next; this will be followed by the final design phase with an estimated completion date of 2015.

Architect Michael McKeon next commented noting that enrollment has increased from 800 to over 1000 and that under this design all the shops would be brought up to state standards with an upper level being the academic level and the main level being the shop level, along with a two storey wing that will contain administrative services and science and math classrooms that meet state guidelines. Two additional points of reimbursement were given by the State in

recognition of the well maintained facility along with two points for meeting certain green components.

Mr. David Eisenthal next discussed finances explaining that the schedule of borrowing and debt service of thirty years would make the final payment in FY2045. Spencer's share would be 9.02% with an annual cost of \$37 to homeowners. He acknowledged that the Town may want to see a debt exclusion.

Mr. Durant asked what would happen if a Town did not agree and Mr. Papagni responded that a district wide vote would be held. Mr. Pepe asked about long term planning, noting that while a worthy project, this is yet another big ticket item for the Capital Improvement Planning Committee to incorporate into the Town's long term financial planning.

Mr. Berthiaume asked about the green construction and Mr. McKeon briefly explained the criteria for LEED checklists and other qualifiers.

Mr. Papagni noted that in March/April the School Committee is expected to give their approvals and forward their recommendation to the Towns who will then have 60 days to take action. If none is taken, the project will be considered approved.

School Committee member John LaFleche thanked Representative Durant for sending his aide to the MSBA meeting.

Mr. Gaudette asked for an estimated payment schedule.

- b) Action Item: vote to appoint Elizabeth McPherson as a Registrar (3-year term)

A motion to appoint Elizabeth McPherson as a registrar for a three year term (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 5/0.

- c) Action Item: Vote to submit ballot question to the Town Clerk to change Cemetery Commissioner positions from elected to appointed. Mr. Gaudette commented that there are other boards and committees that may be dissolved in the next year which are no longer necessary. He recommended the Board make this change to the Cemetery Commission noting that no one runs, but the Town Clerk has to review and count all write in votes.

A motion to put a question on the ballot asking for a change to the Cemetery Commission positions from elected to appointed (Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.

- d) Action Item: Vote to submit CIC Grant Application (Regional Stormwater)

Mr. Gaudette summarized the reasons behind the grant application noting that he is working with twelve other towns to submit a joint grant application. The application for the grant is due on 1/17/12 and each Town's Board needs to give a vote of support.

A motion to support the CIC application (Woodbury/Durant) passed 5/0.

- e) Discussion: Request for topics for Delegation Discussion on February 13, 2012.

Mr. Berthiaume asked all Board members to forward their questions to the Town Administrator no later than the next week so that the questions could be presented to the delegation prior to their meeting. Mr. Gaudette suggested asking about out of district schooling for students noting that the Town has one student who attends an out of district school and the cost to the Town for tuition and transportation is in excess of \$40k.

Town Administrator's Report:

- a) FY2013 Budget Development Update.

Mr. Gaudette presented an updated calendar and asked that the capital discussion be postponed to the January 23rd meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The Board agreed that if no other issues came up, the Workshop scheduled for January 18th would be cancelled. Additionally, it was noted that there would be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the SEBRSD on February 27th. Mr. Pepe asked if a conference call could be set up to allow him to remotely participate in the Capital Improvement Planning Committee scheduled for January 24th.

b) Sibley Warner Farm Purchase Update.

Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that he would be meeting with Mass Audubon et al and the 10th of January and would have an update for the Board at their meeting on the 23rd. He noted that Mass Audubon is looking to get another 150 acres in order to get additional grant monies. Mr. Pepe commented that if the grants received are greater than expected than taxpayers should not be left on the hook.

c) Bid Update.

Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the President came through with FEMA money and that the tree removal necessary will now go out to bid. It is expected that there will be two bids, one to remove 46 identified trees and one for annual tree services. He noted that obtaining tree removal services from the state bid list is not always cost effective and that it is better to have local people who know the area.

The Library roof had two bids and the contractor who was the low bidder is considering withdrawing his bid. Kang Associates and the Town Administrator are currently holding talks regarding downscaling the project or rebidding it.

The Sewer pump station is under design and will go out to bid

Chief Parsons is to revisit the Fire Station Annex project.

Board Liaison Reports: Mr. Pepe noted that he attended the Finance Committee meeting

Citizen Input: none

Board Member and Staff Comments: Mr. Pepe announced he held office hours on December 27th and had forwarded the information/comments to the Town Administrator. He also plans to hold office hours in February. Mr. Durant noted that he would also be holding office hours during the month of January. Mr. Pepe asked about the possibility of putting a questionnaire on the website to identify community priorities as part of long term capital planning. Mr. Berthiaume suggested Mr. Pepe put together a list of such projects and provide it to the Town Administrator. He also thanked Sheriff Lew Evangelitis and the Worcester County House of Corrections for providing community service workers to paint the interior of the Town Hall.

Executive Session: Mr. Berthiaume announced that the Board would reconvene in open session only to adjourn.

A motion to enter into Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A § 21 ¶ 1 for the purposes of discussing discipline or dismissal or, or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (Woodbury/Durant) passed with a roll call vote: Durant-yes, Woodbury-yes, Berthiaume-yes, Pepe-yes, Fritze-yes.

The Executive Session ended and the meeting reconvened in Open Session.

A motion to adjourn (Woodbury/Durant) passed 5/0. The meeting concluded at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Laura J. Torti
Administrative Assistant

_____ Chairman

_____ Vice Chairman

_____ Clerk

_____ Member

_____ Member

_____ Date