



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, May 13, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room A, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Berthiaume & Fritze and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:02 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 Workshop, the April 22, 2013 Business Meeting, and the May 2, 2013 Special Meeting (Woodbury /Fritze) passed 5/0.

A motion to release 2012 Executive Session Minutes of August 13, September 10, September 24, and November 14, as approved by Town Counsel (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

None

New Business

Action Item: Parade Permit Request: American Legion Memorial Day Parade

A motion to approve the parade permit for the annual Memorial Day Parade (Woodbury / Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Public Hearing: MGL 148 §13 - Application to Store Combustible Liquids: Diversified Auto, 22 Podunk Hwy

Chairman Pepe opened the hearing at 6:06 pm.

Administrator Gaudette noted that the State is final authority in the fuel licensing process. The Board, as the Local Licensing Authority, issues a license for permission to store fuel after approval by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief Issues a permit to allow the applicant to apply for the license and the State Fire Marshall has the final approval.

This is a new proposal for Diversified Auto to convert the existing overflow parking lot to a fueling station for their vehicles.

Bob Coluccio, from Web Engineering Associates and representing Diversified Auto, presented a site plan. He reported that 12,000 gallons is the standard size which allows businesses to keep the number of fueling truck trips at a minimum and is beneficial for the roads. Mr. Coluccio is working in conjunction with the Spencer Fire Department and the State Fire Marshall.

Al Atchue of Meadow Rd, asked if the fuel is for Diversified Auto only, or if it will be open to the public. Mr. Coluccio said it will be for their vehicles only and not for public use.

There were no other questions from the public.

A motion to close the hearing at 6:19 pm (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

A motion to approve the application for Diversified Auto to Store Combustible Liquids at 22 Podunk Highway (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

A license will be signed by Chairman Pepe and issued to the applicant.

Action Item: Appoint Town Counsel

Mr. Gaudette recommended that the Board reappoint Stan Weinberg as Town Counsel noting he has been a great asset to the Town. His rate is \$175 per hour, which is reasonable in comparison to other attorneys.

A motion to appoint Stan Weinberg as Town Counsel for a period of two years (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Old Business

Action Item: Review Revised BOS 2013 Meeting Schedule

The Board previously approved the 2013 meeting calendar, which included a second business meeting for June, July, and August. Historically this meeting is dropped during the summer. The revised calendar reflects this change.

A motion to approve the revised 2013 Meeting Schedule as presented (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: CDBG Agreement Amendment for Lenard Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Gaudette reported that the original contract for professional engineering services for the Southside Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement Project was awarded to Lenard Engineering in February. Lenard has since determined that smoke testing for sewer in the Main St. South area is needed. They are requesting a change order in the amount of \$7,880 to add the testing. Mr. Gaudette recommends that the Board approve.

A motion to approve the CDBG Agreement amendment for Lenard Engineering for smoke testing in the amount of \$7,880 (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Approve MOU for Net Metering of Electricity with Solterra

Mr. Gaudette introduced Steve Plonsker from Solterra and explained that the Memo of Understanding (MOU) is not for the purchase of power; it is an understanding that allows Solterra to pursue permits. Mr. Plonsker said that alternative energy could result in a 30% savings for Spencer.

A motion to approve the MOU with Solterra as written (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0.

Discussion: Town Administrator Evaluation Process

Chairman Pepe announced that he and Mr. Woodbury met with Administrator Gaudette to review his performance evaluation noting that he scored above average in all categories and that the Town is very fortunate to have him on board.

Mr. Gaudette thanked the Board for their comments and said he is happy to be part of the Town.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Meeting Follow-up

Mr. Gaudette reported that since the SEBSD budget request was defeated, the District now has 30 days to revise the budget. Once the revised budget is received, the Town has 45 days to hold a Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Fritze said he will check into the situation with the boiler at Maple St. School and said he believed it should be paid for by the District.

Mr. Gaudette reviewed lease agreement and learned that the District is responsible for preventative maintenance only. Major capital items are the responsibility of the Town. It can be financed by placing on a Town Meeting Warrant, or the District can replace it and build the cost into the annual assessment. Either way, a decision must be made on what to do with the building.

Bid Update

None

Board Liaison Reports:

Mr. Stevens reported that five applications for the Interim School Superintendent position were received. Two candidates were interviewed last week and references are being checked. He noted that although the applicant pool was small, the candidates were strong.

Mr. Fritze reported that the Fire Station Annex should be ready to occupy in approximately one month.

Mr. Berthiaume mentioned that Family Fun Day will be held on June 29th this year. The Fire Department is helping to get donations to pay for fireworks. They may hold a toll booth to raise funds.

Mr. Stevens noted he is working with the Cultural Council and Lois Shorten to expand the role of local artists.

Citizen Input

Eleanor O'Conner reported that June 5th is the last day to register to vote in the State Election to be held on June 25th.

Frank Harvey, Church St. had questions concerning:

- Ambulance service - people have been afraid due to rumors and the issue is confusing; he wants to make an informed vote and wants to know what happens in future years if this passes. Mr. Gaudette said the Town will continue to explore ambulance service options.
- The School District budget is not sustainable to residents with modest incomes. Very upset about this situation. Mr. Pepe said the Board agrees that this situation has to improve and is trying to work with the District.
- Expressed concern about the way the Transfer Station has been handled. Believes bag fees have caused the issue with the Transfer Station and offered his services to improve the situation. Mr. Woodbury said the Board is in the process of researching how to best manage the Transfer Station.

Al Atchue of Meadow Rd. asked about the ballot question concerning the school budget. Mr. Gaudette said that since it was voted down at Town Meeting, the question is moot.

Board Member and Staff Comments

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

Diversified Auto Application
Amended CDBG Agreement for Lenard Engineering
MOU for Net Metering with Solterra
Administrator Performance Evaluation