



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Vice Chair Fritze, Clerk G. Woodbury, Members Stevens & C. Woodbury and Administrator Gaudette. Chair Pepe was absent.

At 6:00 p.m. Vice Chair Fritze called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting and Executive Session of October 29th 2014 (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

Kurt Nordquist asked the Board to consider a change in policy and move sand from the Transfer Station, back to the Highway Department. He suggested installing a camera to monitor. The Board will take it under advisement. Selectmen G. Woodbury said he is not in favor of changing the policy.

Jan Park, President of Common Ground Land Trust (CGLT), informed the Board that the Land Trust was able to raise the funds needed to match the State grant. She presented a check for \$8,250, which is the community portion for the purchase of Small Farm and noted the Agricultural Preservation Restriction is now complete. The Board thanked Ms. Park and the CGLT for their efforts on this project.

Communications

None

New Business

Public Hearing – Request for “No Parking” Designation on north side of Church Street, Monday-Saturday 8 am to 12 noon

Mr. Fritze opened the hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Al Morin, representing Morin’s Funeral Home, explained they are having difficulty parking the hearse during the 8 am to noon timeframe and requested a “no parking” designation for the north side of Church St. during that time. He noted there is sufficient parking on the opposite side of the street and submitted photos that showed the parking situation.

Mr. Stevens asked if there has been any attempt to talk with the neighbors directly. Mr. Morin said there has not and noted there is plenty of parking behind the properties and on the opposite side of the street. The problem area is around 221 & 222 Church St. and involves three spaces.

Public comments:

Vic LaCroix, 12 Church St. noted this request doesn’t address church weddings, where parking issues are more serious. He would like to see an exemption to have the “no parking” area on the

north side as active parking and asked the Board to explore alternatives to placing restrictions on the households on the street.

Roger Witt, 8-10 Church St. suggested moving the hearse after unloading or using a saw horse or police detail during funerals to control traffic. He wants solutions that do not impact the neighbors.

Mr. Morin noted it only involves 3 spaces and said he could live with a restriction from 9 to 11 am instead of 8 to noon.

Al Atchue, Meadow Rd. expressed concern over getting involved in parking for a private business and questioned how it would be handled if other businesses request restrictions in front of their buildings.

Mr. G. Woodbury viewed the area earlier in the day and has concerns with designating "no parking" areas. He recommends the Board do site visit and then continue the public hearing.

The hearing will be continued pending a site visit in January, which will be posted.

A motion to continue the hearing to January 12th at 6 pm, or after a site visit (G. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/0.

In the meantime, Mr. Stevens suggests Mr. Morin work directly with neighbors.

Discussion with SMOC (204 Main St) Re: Lodging House Disturbances

Administrator Gaudette explained this is a continuation of a discussion from the License renewal hearing that took place on November 12th to discuss concerns with disturbances that took place in 2014.

Charles Gagnon, CEO of S. Middlesex Non-profit Housing Corporation (SMOC) apologized for the disturbances and informed the Board changes have been made, including assigning a new property manager and holding meetings to improve communication. There were a few tenants who gained admission with no sincere interest in the program; it took 90 days to remove those individuals and more aggressive screening is now taking place.

Chief Darrin said he is satisfied with the efforts being taken to mitigate the situation.

The Board thanked Mr. Gagnon for his candor and efforts to improve.

A motion to issue the Lodging House license (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Mr. Stevens asked to be kept informed of any issues in the future. Chief Darrin will copy SMOC on the information he provides to the Board.

Discussion with Lismorris (126 Main St) Re: Lodging House Disturbances

Mr. Gagnon explained that SMOC is in negotiations with the owners of 126 Main St. to acquire the property noting it needs to be managed differently.

Sean O'Doherty, owner of 126 Main St. was present and took offense over Mr. Gagnon's comment pointing out there have been fewer issues since he took over the property five years ago. He is an onsite landlord, there at least three days a week.

Mr. Gaudette thanked him for coming in and apologized for the confusion.

Mr. G. Woodbury noted the spike in incidents over last year concerned the Board. Mr. O'Doherty said problem tenants have since been removed.

Chief Darrin reported the last incident was tracked in July. He offered to report monthly going forward and copy Mr. O'Doherty on any incidents.

Mr. Stevens asked about the type of business. Mr. O'Doherty explained it is a private business; a rooming house with a few apartments, but mainly rooms. There is a camera system onsite.

Mr. C. Woodbury suggested holding off on a vote until a new incident report can be reviewed. The Board agreed. Mr. O'Doherty will return on December 17th.

Old Business

Action Item – Net Metering Agreement – Jared O'Connell, Borrego Solar

Mr. Gaudette introduced Jared O'Connell, from Borrego Solar noting he has previously worked with the Town on solar projects and more recently has been involved in discussions on a Net Metering project. Kopelman and Paige Law Firm is drafting an agreement for the project, which will provide significant savings on the cost of electricity.

Mr. O'Connell explained this is a virtual net metering project with metering in the form of a paper transaction. Each kilowatt hour generated allows a net metering credit and can be allocated to any user within the same utility company. Spencer will purchase 1 ½ megawatts, resulting in over \$78,000 in savings per year. The project is expected to be fully online by the end of 2015 or beginning of 2016.

A motion to enter into agreement with Syncarpha based on Town Counsel's opinion (G. Woodbury/C.Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Discussion: Zoning Change Proposed for Tattoo Parlors- James Whalen, Planning Board Chairman

A business owner has asked the Planning Board to change the zoning to allow tattoo parlors in the center of Town. Planning Board Chairman James Whalen read letter from Brydi Ricard requesting zoning be changed to allow tattoo parlors on Main St. Ms. Ricard also provided him with a signed petition in support of tattoo parlors on Main St. Mr. Whalen asked the Board for their thoughts.

Mr. Gaudette noted the only way to get a zoning article on a warrant is through Planning Board sponsorship or citizen petition, with Planning Board involvement. A two-thirds majority voted is required to change zoning. Mr. Whalen will discuss further with Town Planner Michelle Buck.

Action Item: Amended Wheelabrator Contract

Spencer is part of a 32 town-consortium with Wheelabrator. The current rate of \$74 per ton has been reduced to \$64 per ton, effective January 1st.

A motion to approve the amended version of the Wheelabrator Contract (C. Woodbury/G. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Town Administrator Report

FY16 Budget Goals

Mr. Gaudette will present his staff with the FY16 budget calendar and goals at their next meeting. Budget and capital requests will be due on January 12th. The overall plan is to restore what was lost with any available revenue surplus. He asked the Board if there's anything they want to communicate to staff. Mr. Stevens asked if there is a way to deploy people more efficiently and if the library can be brought back to its former level by staffing differently. Mr. Gaudette said each service will be on a case by case basis.

Town Administrator Goals

The draft goals for December 2014 through April 2015 were reviewed. The Administrator will meet with the Chair to discuss further. He asked the Board to review and get back to him with any comments next week.

Mobility 2040 Survey – CMRPC

Administrator Gaudette noted that CMRPC is conducting a mobility survey to help plan long range projects. He asked citizens to go to the Town website and complete the short survey.

Board Liaison Reports

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Stevens commended Administrator Gaudette on a great job coordinating the well attended Chapter 70 meeting in Holden.

Citizen input

James Whalen said has concerns over dealing with Borrego Solar; they completed a project at Wilson Farm and multiple issues occurred with water, soil, and foundations.

Mr. Stevens said he wants to ensure the Transfer Station is the best location for sand. A load of sand can be placed outside when the Station is closed.

Mr. Gaudette expressed sadness over a fatal accident that occurred on Greenville St. earlier in the day.

Mr. C. Woodbury offered his thanks to Wendy and Donnie Berthiaume and the Celebrations Committee for their work with the annual Christmas Parade.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Net Metering Agreement

Letter from Brydi Ricard

Petition on tattoo parlors

Lodging House disturbance report

Amended Wheelabrator Contract

Town Administrator Goals