



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, May 28, 2014  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room A Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze, Pepe, C. Woodbury and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:04 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Minutes

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting & Executive Session of May 12, 2014; and the Workshop Meeting of May 19, 2014 (Woodbury/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

### Reorganization

A motion to nominate Selectmen Pepe as Chair (Fritze/Stevens) passed 5/0.  
A motion to nominate Selectmen Fritze as Vice-chair (Pepe/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.  
A motion to nominate Selectmen G. Woodbury as Clerk (Fritze/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

### Citizen Input

None

### Communications

None

### New Business

#### **Action Item: Approve One-day Alcohol License for Mary Queen of the Rosary**

Mr. Fritze recused himself and spoke on behalf of the church requesting a One-day Alcohol License for the annual bazaar on June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.

*A motion to approve the request for a One-day Alcohol License for Mary Queen of the Rosary (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.*

### Old Business

#### **Chapter 70 Formula – Interests of Other Towns**

Administrator Gaudette reached out to the MMA for information on cases involving Chapter 70. So far, there have been two law suits were filed; however they were by families requesting additional funding. Worcester County Districts appear to be impacted most and many towns are struggling to fund education. Mr. Gaudette provided a draft letter to send to

other communities experiencing similar issues and inviting them to meet and discuss potential solutions. The letter will be addressed to Town Administrators and Select Board Chairmen and a copy will be sent to Senators and State Representatives.

### **Town Hall Boiler**

Administrator Gaudette and Selectmen Fritze have been working with Seaman Engineering on the Town Hall boiler conversion from oil to gas. A proposal from Seaman's was received. Mr. Gaudette asked the Board to authorize him to meet with Mr. Fritze and Mr. Seaman to review and clarify the proposal. The Board agreed.

### **Town Administrator Report**

#### **Discussion: Health Insurance "Opt-Out" Program**

Administrator Gaudette noted the Health Insurance "Opt-Out" Program offers an incentive to employees currently enrolled in program if they opt out by joining their spouses program or another program. It can save the Town up to \$13,000 annually, per employee opting out. He advised the Board to offer the program every year. The employee must stay off for two years. The Board agreed and will vote to adopt at their first meeting in June.

#### **Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Gaudette is currently working on his second Masters degree and needs a few classes which are offered on Monday evenings; therefore he is requesting a temporary shift in Selectmen meetings on certain Mondays. The Board agreed to amend the schedule to hold certain meetings as requested on Wednesday evenings. An updated schedule will be provided at the next meeting.

A motion to reschedule meetings as requested from Monday nights to Wednesday nights (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- Chief Parsons / Fire Department Training
- SEBRSD budget
- Agricultural Association

Mr. Stevens commented that he was surprised by the failure of the Override questions. He suggests encouraging residents to attend meetings. Mr. Gaudette pointed out all meetings are advertised on the Town Website and are posted in the Town Hall. In addition, meetings held in March and April were published in the newspaper and on the marquee in front of Town Hall.

Mary Braney, Fincom Chair made a plea to folks who watch meetings on cable TV to accept the responsibility to come to the meetings, especially with such important issues.

Mr. Pepe suggested holding additional public hearings and going off site to the Senior Center, Library, and to Spencer Cable Access where people can call in.

Selectmen Pepe noted he held office hours which were well advertised and only one resident came in. Selectmen Stevens will hold office hours on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 pm.

### **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pepe said the Sugden Block meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Mr. Stevens mentioned he spoke with Father Isaac from the Abbey Brewery regarding a tour and open house for Spencer residents. He will pursue at future date.

### **Citizen input**

Al Atchue, Meadow Rd. asked if the Health Insurance Opt-Out program is it paid in lump sum. He also noted some residents feel they are being insulted by a member of the School and Finance Committee for holding differing views. Chairman Pepe said he hopes Boards take input from residents even if they have differing views.

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd. suggests calling people that may need a ride to come out and vote. Chairman Pepe said having volunteers to provide rides may be an option.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about the status of sale of the Sugden and other Town buildings. Mr. Pepe said an RFP for the Sugden building will be ready soon. Mr. Gaudette pointed out that proceeds from the sale of Town property goes to fund capital expenditures only, per State Statute.

### **Board Member and Staff Comments**

Mr. Fritze reported that the tile for the hallway and bathroom of the Fire Station Annex was donated by someone wishing to remain anonymous.

Mr. G. Woodbury noted there was a good turnout for the Memorial Day Parade.

Chairman Pepe reached out to the Agricultural Association to discuss utilizing the Fairgrounds as a multi-use facility and for a Farmer's Market.

The meeting was adjourned 7:03 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

### **Referenced Materials**

Letter on Chapter 70 funding  
Health Insurance Opt-out program  
Boiler proposal from Seaman's Engineering