



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: January 9, 2017 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Great Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Stevens, Vice Chair C. Woodbury, Clerk Hicks,
Members G. Woodbury and Pepe, and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:04 p.m. Chairman Stevens 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

Chairman Stevens announced that Selectmen Pepe will be participating remotely.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve Executive Sessions of August 15, 2016, September 12, 2016, and September 26, 2016, not to be released at this time

A motion to approve the Executive Sessions of August 15, 2016, September 12, 2016, and September 26, 2016, not to be released at this time (C. Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Vote to approve Special Meeting of November 1, 2016, Workshop of November 21, 2016, and Business Meetings of November 28, 2016 & December 12, 2016

Vote to approve Special Meeting of November 1, 2016, Workshop of November 21, 2016, and Business Meetings of November 28, 2016 & December 12, 2016 (C. Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

Mary Braney, 15 Pine Acres Road, said she was addressing the Board as a member of the Finance Committee. She mentioned a previous meeting where Mr. Pepe suggested bringing department heads in to educate the public on the needs during the FY18 budget process. She noted that this has been done for many years and wants to ensure efforts put forth by these departments are appreciated. She suggested holding joint meetings between the FinCom and the BOS.

Mr. Pepe said his statement about having the department heads present their case had nothing to do with the efforts of the past. He believed strong arguments for previous Proposition 2 ½ Overrides have been put forth and should have passed. He wants the Board to work together with all committees to appropriately fund the Town.

Ms. Braney said they will work hard together to obtain appropriate funding to improve the Town.

Communications:

Local Community Addiction Advisory Committee Update

Chief Darrin provided an update on the efforts of the Local Community Addiction Advisory Committee (LCAAC). He reported that a three-prong strategy to deal with opioid issue was put in place in June, which led to the LCAAD being created and appointed by the Board in August.

The Chief pointed out that the downward trend in fatalities may be attributed to the program, with people being more aware and comfortable helping their friends and not getting into trouble. Next steps include setting up a mentoring program as well as a program at the DPHS.

Mr. Pepe asked about setting up a community watch type of program. Chief Darrin felt there would be a lack of participation.

Mr. G. Woodbury acknowledged that he was not in favor of this program initially; however he is pleased with the results and thanked the Chief for his efforts.

New Business:

Discussion: Initial FY2018 Budget Discussion with SEBRSD

As part of the FY18 budget kick-off, SEBRSD Superintendent Crowe, Comptroller Suter, and School Committee Chair Berthiaume were present for a general discussion.

Dr. Crowe reported that the District budget process is ongoing at all times. A report on capital needs is being finalized and she has been meeting with principals, coordinators, and directors to review the needs of the District. She mentioned that they proactively joined the Southern Worcester County Regional Task Force to discuss cost sharing between districts.

Mr. Suter noted that the current spending trend with employee health benefit costs is going to continue. Health insurance costs have increased by 65%.

Ms. Berthiaume said the SEBRSDC will meet on January 17th to discuss the budget and their prospective.

Vote to Approve the Common Victualler License for Ampex Brands Pizza of NE, Inc., d/b/a Pizza Hut- 62 W. Main Street, Spencer

This application is due to a change in ownership. All documents are in order for the license.

A motion to Approve the Common Victualler License for Ampex Brands Pizza of NE, Inc., d/b/a Pizza Hut- 62 W. Main Street, Spencer (Hicks/G.Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote to authorize additional Snow & Ice expenditures in accordance with MGL c. 44, 31D

A motion to authorize additional Snow & Ice expenditures in the amount of \$100,000 in accordance with MGL c. 44, 31D (Hicks/G.Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Adopt the Community Comparison Chart

A motion to approve the Community Comparison Chart for use in 2017 and review next year (Hicks/C.Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Mr. G. Woodbury suggested other towns may be better comparisons noting that Spencer's population will likely be under 10,000. Mr. Gaudette noted additional communities were reviewed a few years ago, but none were added as it's difficult to find an ideal comparison. He noted this is used as a guide and may be updated with additional communities, if suitable. Dr. Hicks said he doesn't think a slight change in population will have an effect either way.

Old Business

Update: Community Host Agreement for a Medical Marijuana Facility Proposed by HHG

Mr. Gaudette put together a draft Host Agreement using data from 30 different communities. He will forward to C. Woodbury and Dr. Hicks and then on to HHG. An update will be provided in a few weeks.

Town Administrator's Report

FY2018 Budget Update

The calendar was reviewed.

Questions for Legislative Delegation on February 13, 2017

Mr. Gaudette said that Senator Gobi, Representative Durant, and Representative Berthiaume have confirmed they will be attending the February 13th meeting and asked the Board to provide questions they want conveyed by the January 23rd meeting.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe and the Economic Development Committee met with Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila to review goals and objectives for the revitalization of downtown. He will report back with details on revised goals.

Citizen Input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Gaudette announced that meetings will be held on January 10th by the Landfill Solar Committee and the Building Property Reuse Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Common Victualler License for Pizza Hut
FY2018 Budget Calendar