



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: January 18, 2017 – Workshop
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Stevens, Vice Chair C. Woodbury, Clerk Hicks, Members
Pepe, G. Woodbury, and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:05 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

All members were able to participate.

Discussion: Proposed Permit/License Fee Changes

After each department reviewed fees with comparable communities, a Fee Comparison Report with requests for proposed changes was reviewed.

With regard to licenses issued by the Board of Selectmen, changes were proposed for the Automated Amusement license from \$20 to \$30 per device, and the Junk Dealer license from \$25 to \$30. This increase still places Spencer well below the Comparable Communities with the average of \$44 and \$52, respectively.

A motion to change the Automated Amusement license fee from \$20 to \$30 per device (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

With the average fee for the Junk Dealer license at \$52, Mr. C. Woodbury advised the Board to increase it to \$35.

A motion to change the Junk Dealer license fee from \$25 to \$35 (C. Woodbury/Hicks) passed 4/1, with G. Woodbury opposed.

Town Clerk Laura Torti noted that the fees in the Clerk's Office haven't changed in over ten years. She is proposing to increase some of the fees to keep in line with Spencer's Comparison Communities.

A motion to increase the Notary fee to \$2 (G. Woodbury/Pepe) passed 5/0.

After reviewing the request to increase Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificate fees by \$3, Mr. G. Woodbury felt it was too high and would like to see a \$1 increase, especially with regard to death certificates where a person often needs to obtain multiple copies. Dr. Hicks said a \$3 increase is not overly burdensome and will keep Spencer in line with what other

communities are charging. There was discussion on keeping death certificates at \$7 and increasing marriage and birth certificates to \$10.

A motion to increase Birth and Marriage Certificates to \$10 and for Death Certificates to remain at \$7 (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

The motion was amended to increase Birth and Marriage Certificates to \$10 and for Death Certificates to remain at \$7, contingent upon Ms. Torti researching State Statue with regard to pricing (G. Woodbury/ Hicks) passed 5/0.

A motion to increase the Marriage Intention fee to \$20 (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion to increase the Dog License Intact fee to \$15 (C. Woodbury/Hicks) passed 4/1, G. Woodbury opposed.

A motion to increase the Dog demand fee to \$30 (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Mr. Gaudette advised the Board to hold off on the proposed increases from ODIS. He will ask Mr. Jarvis to put together comparables for the other communities and discuss at a future meeting.

Action Item: Vote of Support for Parks & Recreation DCR Grant (Rail Trail Phase 3)

Mary McLaughlin and Steven Tyler were present. Ms. McLaughlin asked the Board for a vote of support to assist with obtaining a grant for Phase 3 of the Rail Trail project. The goal is to purchase benches, kiosks, signs, gates, mile markers, wellness stations, and maps.

Mr. Tyler reported the Phase 2 funding is in place and that part of the project will be completed in the spring. He is asked the Board to provide a letter of support to send to DCR.

A motion to approve the Vote of Support for the Parks & Recreation DCR Grant and send a letter to DCR for the Rail Trail Phase 3 (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Mr. Tyler noted that a commitment from Bay Path to provide assistance for the project for 2018 will go a long way towards obtaining funding. Mr. Stevens will reach out to Bay Path's Director of Education.

Discussion: Community Host Agreement

The Administrator is in the process of collecting data from multiple agreements across the State. He reported that the Board previously voted to select two members to work with him on negotiations, however after some research he advised the Board to rescind that vote and authorize him to work with C. Woodbury. This will allow negotiations in a closed forum, which would be more efficient.

A motion to rescind the vote of two members working with the Administrator, and authorize C. Woodbury to work with the Administrator on negotiations (Hicks/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Discussion: David Prouty High School Project Update

Mr. Stevens noted that at the joint meeting with the SEBRSDC and the East Brookfield Board of Selectmen, it was agreed that the project for the DPHS will be on hold pending East Brookfield's decision on whether or not to remain in the District.

Dr. Hicks noted that a meeting between the District Building Superintendent and the Building Needs Committee will take place. He wants to ensure the DPHS boiler doesn't fail over the winter. Grant funding is available through the MSBA, however there may not be time to apply for this round. 75% of the removal cost for old boilers is covered, but does not include asbestos abatement. He spoke with a representative at the Department of Education and was informed that if East Brookfield leaves the District, Spencer will be responsible for purchasing a portion of the cost of the buildings back from them.

Mr. G. Woodbury said his concern is maintenance and the cost to Spencer if East Brookfield leaves the District.

Mr. Pepe expressed his concern with the direction East Brookfield is taking and wants to research Spencer's options.

Mr. C. Woodbury said an extraordinary maintenance study for Wire Village needs to be complete. Mr. Gaudette offered to work on impact study and scope of services on the impact to Spencer to buy out East Brookfield.

A motion to authorize Mr. Gaudette to gather data for an Impact Study (G. Woodbury/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Mr. Stevens said he felt it was a positive meeting and believes there is room to salvage the relationship. He acknowledged that East Brookfield is exercising their options as they see fit and the Board needs to work together with them.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶3, to discuss litigation

At 7:25 p.m. a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the Police Officers, Police Dispatchers, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks Bargaining Units and to reconvene only to adjourn (Hicks/GW) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury -yes, Stevens-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials
Permit Fees Comparison