



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: February 13, 2017 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social 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

All members were able to attend the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Workshop of January 18, 2017, Executive Session of January 18, 2017- not to be released at this time, and Business Meeting of January 23, 2017

A motion to approve the Workshop of January 18, 2017, Executive Session of January 18, 2017 (not to be released at this time), and Business Meeting of January 23, 2017 (Hicks/C. Woodbury/) 5/0.

Communications:

SERSDSC member Robert Ortiz came before the Board to provide a brief update on behalf of the Committee. He reported that the Committee remains focused on their goals for the District and are seeing a shift in momentum as they work towards making improvements. He asked about baseline budget information from the Town.

Mr. Gaudette explained that the Town's contribution includes the Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) as mandated by the State, transportation costs, capital or debt service, and anything above the MLC. The MLC alone can be in increase between 4-5%. With the Town limited by Proposition 2 ½, it becomes a challenge to fund the budget, especially when you take into account those needs above MLC. In addition, the State is shifting the "target share contribution" off of their budget and onto the towns, creating a greater challenge.

Dr. Hicks asked about the status of capital requests. School Committee member Jason Monette is handling and will provide an update.

Mr. Pepe suggests the District provide a narrative for all capital items as the Town currently does; this will allow priority items to get the attention they deserve.

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Discussion: Annual Meeting with Legislative Delegation-Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant

Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant were present for their annual update. They addressed questions in the following areas: FY2017 State Budget/Revenues, 9C Cuts, GIC Financial Stability; FY2018 State Budget/H1 Budget, Senate and House Outlook; Education Foundation Budget Study Update/Chapter 70 Formula; Chapter 74 Nonresident Voke Transportation Bill/Other Bills filed; State Pension Reforms/Unfunded Liability Assistance from State; and State Public Records Laws/Conflict of Interest Laws (State vs. Local).

Senator Gobi thanked the Highway Department for their efforts, pointing out that the roads are in great shape after multiple snow and ice events.

The Senator reported that the Governor submitted the House 1 budget, currently at \$40 million dollars, without increasing taxes. Additional funds can be obtained from Airbnb sales and Internet sales from out of state companies. An increase in chapter 70 is being proposed. With a billion dollars needed for education there is a proposal for a millionaire's tax to help fund, though the law will not allow it to be earmarked for education, it would go into the general fund. She expects to see this on the Ballot in the near future. The House Ways and Means Committee will hold hearings on the budget this week.

Representative Durant noted the investment in improvements for early education and mentioned the significance of obtaining funds for the reconstruction of Main St. and Route 31 South.

Representative Berthiaume will work to obtain a greater increase in Chapter 70 funding. He noted that healthcare is up over \$250 million and unfunded pension liability needs to be addressed.

With regard to the new public records law, Senator Gobi said she expects to see more transparency within the legislative committees.

Dr. Hicks referenced a Chapter 70 study where a great deal of time and effort was put forth to address the inequality of the Chapter 70 formula and the effect on the Town budget and asked about the status of addressing this formula. The Senator said nothing has been done at this time and noted the issues with the GIC Healthcare funding formula which benefits employees and places a burden on the district. They are currently looking into special healthcare tiers, raising deductibles and co-pays. Both formulas need to be addressed incrementally.

Mr. Pepe suggested looking at wealthy school districts and the disproportionate amount of aid they receive.

Mr. Gaudette asked about the status of the Tufts University study in conjunction with Bay Path. This may be a way for agricultural students to take their core classes at Bay Path and complete the hands on portion at Tufts. Ms. Gobi said opportunities are currently being explored.

Senator Gobi confirmed that the Nonresidential Vocational Pupil Transportation is being filed again, along with a \$2 million increase for school transportation reimbursement.

CDBG FY17 Application - Public Hearing 7:00 pm

Mr. Gaudette introduced Ted Harvey from PVPC, present to discuss the FY17 CDBG grant application and obtain feedback from the public. Spencer has been the recipient of this grant for the past few years.

A motion to open the public hearing at 7:05 pm (Hicks/C.Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Mr. Harvey reported that the goal of CDBG funding is to help low to moderate income families and remove slum and blight areas from the community. PVPC continues to work with Spencer on construction and design projects, with this next grant application being submitted for Chestnut Street

public works improvements for up to \$800,000. Mr. Harvey is confident that the application will benefit Spencer this time around, noting the sole focus is on Chestnut Street and a commitment has been made by the Town, placing the project in a position to move forward. Mr. Tyler noted that the Town will pay for the small portion that is not grant eligible.

A neighborhood meeting was held previously with residents to review the proposed timeline. If the grant is approved, construction work will begin by late spring.

The hearing was opened to the public for a chance to comment.

There were no comments from the public.

A motion to close the public hearing at 7:12 pm (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

A motion for authorization to submit the proposed FY2017 Spencer Community Development Fund Grant application to the DHCD in an amount not to exceed \$800,000, as detailed in the public hearing and to include funding for the Chestnut Street Improvement Project (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0.

A motion for the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign all required forms, documents, and authorizations pertaining to the proposed FY2017 Spencer Community Development Fund Grant application (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Old Business

Discussion: Medical Marijuana Community Host Agreement

Mr. Gaudette has worked with Mr. C. Woodbury on a draft agreement for HHG. He will report back after HHG responds.

Town Administrator's Report

FY2018 Budget Update

The budget calendar was reviewed.

An updated budget for Snow and Ice will be submitted on the 27th.

Board Liaison Reports

Dr. Hicks met with Mr. Tyler to review the U & F budget.

Mr. Stevens discussed future curriculum initiatives and potential grants with Superintendent Crowe.

Citizen Input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

The Board agreed not to hold a meeting next week since the Administrator is away.

Mr. Stevens said he enjoyed COA Valentines dance. Mr. G. Woodbury agreed and offered his thanks to MHPI.

Dr. Hicks said he was disturbed by an article in New Leader indicating problems with the police and nothing to substantiate the claim.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the Police Officers, Police Dispatchers, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks Bargaining Units

At 7:38 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 8:11 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

FY17 CDBG Application
FY2018 Budget Calendar