



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: March 27, 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 6:03 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

Vice Chair C. Woodbury announced that Finance Committee member Tom Parker will participate remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Special Meeting of March 6th and Executive Session of March 20th , 2017

A motion to approve the Special Meeting of March 6th and Executive Session of March 20th , 2017 (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Communications:

None

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Action Item: Reappoint Registrar Eleanor O'Connor

A motion to reappoint Registrar Eleanor O'Connor for a 3 year term (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Spencer/E. Brookfield Little League Parade Request for April 22nd with a rain date of April 29th

A motion to approve the request of the Spencer E. Brookfield Little League for a Parade on April 22nd with a rain date of April 29th (Hicks/G. Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Old Business

None

Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee:

Finance Committee Chair Mary Braney called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Members Paul McLaughlin, Bill Wall, Paul Bouviver, Nancy Herholtz, Robbin Joyce, and Town Moderator William Shemeth were present.

Administrator Gaudette reported that tonight is the last of the joint meetings with the Finance Committee. He reviewed the proposed FY18 Budget, which now includes the SEBRSD revised assessment. He also reviewed a FY2018 Budget Restoration/Additional Programs summary sheet detailing requests discussed over the past several weeks and the cost to restore those services and additional programs. There is essentially a \$1 million dollar gap based on needs as presented by staff. The revised budget has a \$16,575 deficit and includes a \$2,000 for the Library to maintain the MBLC Waiver and have the opportunity to apply for grants. He presented a summary of Options for Adjustment to the FY2018 Budget to restore services by reducing budget reserves and accounts offering three different funding scenarios. Option 1 provides an additional \$53,425 after funding the \$16,575 deficit; Option 2 brings the additional amount up to \$68,425; and Option 3 raises the total additional amount to \$88,925. These options offer the Board the opportunity to determine which areas to fund.

Requests include:

- Town Hall Hours
- Police Department School Resource Officer
- Police Department Sergeant
- Fire Department Full Time Staffing
- Fire Department Retention Program
- U & F Assistant Engineer
- Highway Department LEO, Building Maintenance Staff and Lawn Maintenance
- Council on Aging Outreach Worker and Nighttime Staff Hours
- Library Saturday Hours
- Luther Hill Park Summer Beach and Adventure programs
- Town Clerk Part-time Assistant

Chairman Stevens asked the Finance Committee for their thoughts on priorities.

Nancy Herholtz said she wants to see the least impact on services or to individuals when reducing the budget and noted the Library and Town Hall could be restored in increments if necessary.

Robbin Joyce asked about the impact on taxes for an Override for all requests at \$1 million dollars. Mr. Gaudette estimated a \$200 increase for the average value home.

Bill Shemeth said he believes the Town Hall, Library, and Parks and Recreation restorations would offer the best value and suggested staff requests for the Fire Department, Police School Resource Officer and Highway Equipment Operator be in the form of an Override.

Mr. Gaudette pointed out past experience which indicates it takes five to six months to educate the public on the details for an Override. Mr. G. Woodbury said a decision needs to be made on where we stand today. Mr. Pepe said the Board is not prepared to move forward with an Override.

Ms. Braney would like to see both Boards make it their mission to work together and fully fund the Town with these critical needs.

Mr. C. Woodbury would like to see an outreach worker for the Senior Center and asked about night hours for the Town Hall. Mr. Gaudette said very few people come in at night and it would not be cost effective compared with Thursdays during the day where many people are coming now only to find the Town Hall is closed.

Dr. Hicks agrees with the need for an outreach worker and supports opening the Town Hall on Thursday mornings and the Library on Saturdays.

Mr. C. Woodbury would like to see statistics on Library use at night.

Mr. Pepe said public safety is his top priority and he would also like to see Highway Department and Parks and Rec services restored.

Mr. G. Woodbury said public safety is his top priority and believes an outreach worker for Council on Aging is a critical need for the Town.

Chairman Stevens noted he is not inclined to go with the full funding amount as indicated Option 3 and said he prefers an amount between Option 1 and Option 2. His priorities are to open the Town Hall on Thursday mornings and to hire an outreach worker for the COA. He wants to look at adjusting the current Library weekday hours to shift some over to Saturdays. Mr. Gaudette will email Library Trustees to get their thoughts. Ms. Braney noted that the Library has a minimum number of hours which must be met.

Town Administrator's Report

Capital Plan Rankings & Draft Funding Plan

The Administrator reviewed the FY2018 Capital Program Request document. Discussion on funding requests includes:

- O'Gara Park grandstand roof repair, estimated at \$35,000. Marty German will confirm.
- The Fire Department parking lot request for \$80,000; a partial amount of \$10,000 to be applied towards minimal repair.
- The Town Hall phone system is obsolete; replacement cost is \$17,000.
- The Fire Department server and computer replacement cost is \$11,000.
- \$30,000 for the Assessors triannual evaluation is a requirement by the State.
- \$50,000 for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) will be funded from free cash.

Review Draft Warrant and Ballot Questions

Changes to the draft Warrant were reviewed. There is one Ballot Question which asks voters to opt out of marijuana establishments as defined in G.L. c. 94G, §1 to prohibit marijuana testing, cultivating and manufacturing, and also bans retail sales.

Mary Braney adjourned the Finance Committee meeting at 7:53 pm.

Vote to notify Town Clerk of any Ballot Questions

A motion to notify the Town Clerk of Ballot Question #1 as presented (Pepe/G.Woodbury) passed 5/0

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe wants to schedule a FMPC meeting after the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. C. Woodbury noted that the SEBRSDC decided to hold off on their capital plan until FY2019.

Citizen Input

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe asked to have a speaker phone set up in McCourt Social Hall and Conference Room A to improve communication for anyone participating remotely.

Ms. Braney mentioned that SCA may be purchasing monitors in lieu of projectors for McCourt Social Hall.

Mr. Stevens arranged a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss displaying DPHS student artwork in municipal buildings.

Mr. Pepe asked to add the SEBRSD agreement on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Gaudette will add to the April 10th meeting agenda.

Dr. Hicks would like to meet with Conservation to discuss the gate situation at Browning Pond. Mr. Gaudette will discuss with Chairman Stevens.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the Police Officers, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks Bargaining Units

At 8:08 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, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks Bargaining Units and to reconvene in open session (C. Woodbury/Hicks) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury - yes, Stevens-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe yes.

At 8:27 pm the Board came out of executive session and reconvened in open session.

Action Item: Approve new Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters 170 (Clerks)

A motion to approve the Teamsters 170 (Clerks) contract (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

FY18 Budget Update
Capital Plan Rankings
Draft Funding Plan
Draft Warrant and Ballot Questions
Teamsters 170-Clerks Collective Bargaining Agreement