



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: July 16, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Administrator Gregory
Dialing in: Chairman Hicks, Vice-Chair Woodbury, Clerk Howard, Members Berthiaume
and Pepe
Health Agent Lisa Daoust, Police Chief Darrin, Fire Chief Parsons, U & F
Superintendent Krukowski, Moderator Shemeth, Town Clerk Torti, Finance
Committee Chair Braney

Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and announced the meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, pursuant to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have suspended public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. We are meeting remotely and broadcasting live on Spencer Cable Access to ensure public viewing access. Public participation will be allowed under Citizens Input.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen - Nominate Chairman, Vice Chair, & Clerk

A motion to nominate Dr. Hicks as Chair (Woodbury/Howard) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

A motion to nominate Selectman Woodbury as Vice-chair (Howard/Hicks) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

A motion to nominate Mr. Howard as Clerk (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Citizens Input

Moderator Bill Shemeth noted that he has worked closely Town Clerk Laura Torti and expressed his appreciation to her and her staff; he would like to present her with a certificate of recognition for her service at the next Town Meeting. He would also like to recognize First Responders.

Mr. Shemeth expressed concern over events being requested to take place at the Spencer Fairgrounds and suggests the Board delay these events due to COVID.

Public Hearing – FY18 Spencer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Revision and Budget Transfer with Ted Harvey from PVPC

The hearing was called to order at 6:41 pm.

Mr. Gregory reported that the Board voted on January 27, 2020 to approve the transfer of \$95,000 in CDBG funds from the housing rehab for the design of infrastructure upgrades for Valley and Mill Street. Ted Harvey , representing PVPC asked the Board to approve the program revision and budget amendment, which is the transfer of funds.

The hearing was opened for public comment at 6:46 pm. Mr. Shemeth asked how much funding will be available for housing rehab after the transfer. Mr. Harvey said there will be \$120,000 available in the housing rehab account after the \$95,000 transfer.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:47 pm (Woodbury/Pepe) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Review & Act on the Request from Dogfather Vending LLC for an Entertainment License to Hold a Food Truck Festival & Craft Fair at the Spencer Fairgrounds on August 8, 2020 from 12 pm to 5 pm

Mark Gallant dialed into the meeting to request an Entertainment License to Hold a Food Truck Festival & Craft Fair at the Spencer Fairgrounds on August 8, 2020 from 12 pm to 5 pm.

Dr. Hicks noted his concern with the number of people coming to Spencer due to the Coronavirus. Mr. Woodbury said the Board needs to set a policy for holding events in Spencer.

A motion to deny the request of Dogfather Vending LLC (Howard/Pepe) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Review & Act on the Request of Daniel Hayes for an Entertainment License & a Sunday Entertainment License to Hold the Rice-O-Rama Motorcycle Show at the Spencer Fairgrounds on September 13, 2020 from 8 am to 5 pm

Daniel Hayes dialed into the meeting to request an Entertainment License & Sunday Entertainment License to Hold the Rice-O-Rama Motorcycle Show at the Spencer Fairgrounds on September 13, 2020 from 8 am to 5 pm.

A motion to deny the request of Daniel Hayes for an Entertainment License (Woodbury /Howard) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Review & Act on the Request of Robert LeDuc for a One-day Alcohol License for the Rice-O- Rama Motorcycle Show at the Spencer Fairgrounds on September 13, 2020 from 8 am to 5 pm

A motion to deny the request of Robert LeDuc for a One-day Alcohol License (Pepe/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Review & Act on the Previously Approved Application of Philip Hardy & Keith Kerrigan of Terptown Throwdown for an Entertainment License to Hold a Live Music/Art Festival & Reggae Cannabis Awards at the Spencer Fairgrounds on September 25 from 4 pm to 10 pm and September 26 from 12 pm to 10 pm

Keith Kerrigan dialed into the meeting to discuss his event and requested to move the date to August of 2021.

Dr. Hicks noted that he hopes the event will be able to occur in August of 2021 and asked Mr. Kerrigan how much lead time is needed for the event as he is reluctant to approve without more details on when a vaccine may be available. He suggested more details on the virus may be known by November and the Board may consider the request at that time.

Mr. Gregory indicated that a vote is needed if the Board approves the date change.

Mr. Woodbury advised Mr. Kerrigan to reach out to the Administrator's Office for information relative to the Governor's re-opening guidelines.

A motion to deny the request to change the date (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

A motion to deny the request to hold the Live Music/Art Festival & Reggae Cannabis Awards at the Spencer Fairgrounds on September 25 from 4 pm to 10 pm and September 26 from 12 pm to 10 pm (Woodbury/Howard) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

Review and Act on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Response

Health Agent Daoust reported:

- The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Spencer is currently 48 with 0 active cases. The reverse 911 calls will continue.
- All parks are now open.
- Businesses are open and all is going well.

Police Chief Darrin reported:

- Re-opening Phase 3 is going relatively smooth.

Review & Act on the Appointment of the Interim Town Clerk

Dr. Hicks noted that Town Clerk Laura Torti resigned her position and her last day will be August 31, 2020. With the upcoming primary and presidential election, an Interim Town Clerk needs to be hired soon. Advertisements have been placed and interviews are

expected to take place from August 3 to August 5 with the goal of making an appointment on Thursday, August 6th at 6 pm.

Mr. Shemeth would like to participate in the process to choose the Interim Town Clerk.

Discussion on Future Town Meetings with Moderator Shemeth

Mr. Shemeth thanked the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Finance Committee, District Superintendent, and residents of Spencer for helping to make the Town Meeting move smoothly. He suggests having an outside venue such as the Spencer Fairgrounds for the Fall Town Meeting on a Saturday, with a rain date.

Dr. Hicks indicated that the Board will review the details at their August meeting. In the meantime, he suggests the Mr. Shemeth obtain pricing on tents and a sound system and discuss with Mr. Gregory.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gregory discussed re-opening and occupancy limitations of municipal buildings with Town Counsel and was advised to continue the rotational work from home schedule at this time. The physical opening of buildings should be delayed until all staff are able to return to work. Town Counsel also advised to continue with remote meetings given the challenges with the number of people allowed indoors. Great Hall is currently capped at 25 people. Dr. Hicks said he agrees that it is not feasible at this time.

Citizens Input

Mr. Shemeth asked the Board to consider meeting together, while socially distanced for the public to see and for other Boards and Committees do so as well. Dr. Hicks pointed out it may be difficult for Spencer Cable Access (SCA) to capture the Board on camera with the spacing requirements. Mr. Gregory will explore with SCA and report back at the next meeting.

Board Member and Staff Comments

No additional comments.

A motion to adjourn (Pepe/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks–yes, Howard–yes, Pepe–yes, Woodbury–yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie

Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: CDBG Budget Transfer Document