



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: January 13, 2020 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Monette,
Member Woodbury, and Administrator Gregory.
Members Berthiaume and Hicks were absent.

Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

None

Minutes:

Vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 9th and December 16th, 2019

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 9th and December 16th (Woodbury/Monette) passed 3/0.

Communications:

None

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Review & Act on the Application of Philip Hardy & Keith Kerrigan for an Entertainment License for a Live Music/Art Festival & Cannabis Awards on June 26 and June 27, 2020 at the Spencer Fairgrounds

Philip Hardy and Keith Kerrigan were present to request an Entertainment License for the second annual Terptown Throwdown event to be held at the Spencer Fairgrounds on June 26th and 27th.

Mr. Kerrigan noted that there were weather issues during last year's event which resulted in an early closure. This year they are more prepared with the two-day event and in addition to having their own security, they will use the Spencer Police and Fairgrounds for additional security.

Mr. Gregory reported that a technical review meeting was held on January 7th with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Planner, Health Agent, U & F Superintendent, and Executive Assistant. There were no issues or concerns raised.

A Motion to approve the Application of Philip Hardy & Keith Kerrigan for an Entertainment License for a Live Music/Art Festival & Cannabis Awards on June 26 and June 27, 2020 at the Spencer Fairgrounds (Woodbury/Monette) passed 3/0.

Update on the Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS) regarding the status of Ambulance Service

SRS representative Pat George provided an update on the rescue service and noted the following:

- SRS continues to be challenged by repair costs of two older ambulances and will pursue the purchase of a new ambulance, estimated at \$169,000
- \$20,000 in site upgrades included a new generator system and new radio system for improved communication with local fire and police
- Payroll will increase by 5.5%, in part due to state minimum wage and 2% COLA
- The previous spike in calls has leveled off and SRS has been able to handle without mutual aid assistance
- Overhead continues to increase with rising costs including increases in fuel, heat, medical supplies, and insurance; despite the increases they are able to maintain the service at the current \$225,000 funding received from the Town

Old Business:

Review & Act on the Inclement Weather Policy for Municipal Buildings

Administrator Gregory reported that the Inclement Weather Policy was introduced at the December 16th meeting and is being presented for adoption this evening. The only change was to add a sentence indicating “any change in hours will be posted on the Town Website and recorded on the telephone system greeting.”

A motion to approve the Inclement Weather policy as presented (Woodbury/Monette) passed 3/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Vote to Sign & Close the February 13th Special Town Meeting Warrant

Town Counsel approved the three Special Town Meeting Articles:

Article 1 - Seeks to transfer funds from free cash to supplement Town Counsel services, estimated at \$20,000

Article 2 - Seeks approval for a utility easement to National Grid/Mass Electric and Verizon on a parcel adjacent to the Fire Department

Article 3 – Seeks authorization to appropriate funds from free cash for the design and engineering code-compliant use of Maple Street School for Senior Center purposes.

Mr. Gregory clarified that the CIPC does not need to meet to approve Article 3 since the funds are for design purposes only.

A motion to Close the February 13, 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant as presented (Woodbury/Monette) passed 3/0.

The Board sang the Warrant

Preliminary FY 2021 Budget Discussion

Discussion will take place at the January 27th meeting.

Citizen Input

Kurt Nordquist, Gale Drive suggested the SRS hold an Open House to obtain additional public support.

Bob Cerba, 23 Summit Street asked what will happen to the Senior Center in the meantime. Mr. Gregory said they will remain at 68 Maple Street. The goal is to ensure the building is safe for the public.

COA Chair Chris Mancini requests the Article for the Senior Center not to be bundled with other requests.

Planning Board Chair Jonathon Viner asked for clarification on the decision by the Town Administrator and Town Planner regarding the use of legal counsel by the Planning Board. It is specific to a project at 103 North Spencer Road. Administrator Gregory indicated concerns were raised on whether this project was properly permitted and after a review of the details with Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila, he did not agree with the concerns raised, therefore did not see a need to involve Town Counsel. He offered to meet with Mr. Viner to address his concerns noting this an administrative matter. Mr. Viner said he wanted the Board to weigh in on the matter. Chairman Pepe asked Mr. Viner to work with the Administrator and the Planner; citizen's input is not the place for this type of discussion.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Chairman Pepe attended the SEBRSD budget meeting on Saturday noting it was a productive discussion; the District will provide a three, five, and ten-year capital plan. Mr. Woodbury also attended the meeting and noted there was discussion on the changing demographics of the Town.

Mr. Monette attended the CMRPC meeting and explained the importance of having an accurate the census for Town as certain funding is associated with population numbers.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, for the purpose of discussing Contract Negotiations with Non-union Personnel (Town Administrator)

This item will be postponed to a future meeting with full attendance by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Inclement Weather Policy; Special Town Meeting Warrant