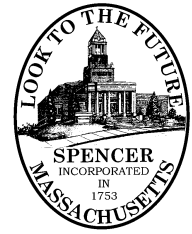


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: April 23, 2020 – Special Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Administrator Gregory
Dialing in: Chairman Pepe, Vice-chair Monette, Clerk Berthiaume, Members Hicks and
Health Agent Lisa Daoust, Chief Parsons, Chief Darrin, Town Clerk Laura Torti
Woodbury

Vice-chairman Monette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Pepe arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 9 & April 16, 2020 (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Woodbury-yes, Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes,

Review & Act on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Response/Update

Health Agent Lisa Daoust reported:

- A total number of active COVID-19 cases in Spencer is currently 11 with 5 active and 6 recovered.
- The State created a collaborative team to contact people who may have been exposed to the virus.
- All public recreation areas in Town remain closed.

Chief Parsons reported:

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee team received 200 gowns, face shields and masks. All have been distributed to the appropriate departments.
- Participating in multiple COVID-19 webinars
- Tracking any expenses related to COVID-19 for future reimbursement.

Chief Darrin reported:

- Calls are down with many people staying at home. He will provide a comparison report over last year during this period.
- May receive an electrostatic disinfecting gun.
- Mass Chiefs of Police Association is staying informed on Statehouse proposals for COVID-19 legislation and will keep the Board updated.

Dr. Hicks noted that the Annual Town Meeting may not occur by June 30th and would like to have a budget discussion including the possibility of utilizing a 1/12th budget. Mr. Gregory indicated that the Board could vote to reschedule the meeting until the end of June and if we are still in this position, will move forward in July with the 1/12th budget scenario.

Town Administrator Update

Mr. Gregory reported that the Town is managing with the rotating schedule in municipal offices. On April 20th Governor Baker signed legislation that prohibits nonessential evictions per Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2020.

Dr. Hicks asked to have the Town Planner contact Cornerstone Bank to facilitate applications on behalf of local businesses.

Dr. Hicks wants a discussion on public participation during remote meetings on the next agenda.

Review & Act on Request to Extend the Due Date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 per chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, Section 10(a)(iv)

The Administrator reported that this legislation extends the due date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

A motion to approve the request to Extend the Due Date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 per chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, Section 10(a)(iv) (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Review& Act on Request to Execute the PILOT Agreement for the North Brookfield Road Solar Project

Mr. Gregory reported that this project has been in the pipeline for a several years has been fully permitted. The PILOT Agreement is to formalize the tax obligation the developer has to the Town and has been reviewed by the Attorney Holland of KP Law. The developer provided pricing on equipment acquired and used the methodology preferred by the Department of Revenue.

Dr. Hicks expressed concern with the “force majeure” clause regarding floods and would like language added to protect the Town. Mr. Gregory indicated this is the language recommended by Attorney Holland and is he comfortable with it. Mr. Monette asked if the language is standard in past PILOT agreements. Mr. Gregory said it is. The Board will review the language in future agreements.

A motion to approve the request to execute the PILOT Agreement for the North Brookfield Road Solar Project (Monette/Berthiaume) passed 3/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-no, Hicks-no

Review & Act on Upcoming Meeting dates:

The FY2021 revised budget calendar was reviewed. The Board agreed to resume meeting on Mondays as of May 4th.

A motion to accept the FY2021 revised calendar (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

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, Police Dispatchers, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks Bargaining Units.

Mr. Pepe stated that an open meeting could have a detrimental effect of the bargaining position of the Town. The Board will not reconvene in Open Session.

At 7:02 pm a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a),(3), to conduct strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with respect to collective bargaining for the Police Officers, Police Dispatchers, Utilities & Facilities and Town Hall Clerks bargaining units (Hicks/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes Woodbury- yes,

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: PILOT Agreement for North Brookfield Solar