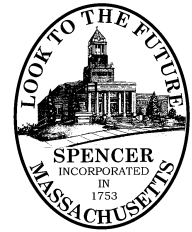


## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: May 11, 2020  
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 Woodbury. Also present were Health Agent Lisa Daoust and Police Chief  
Darrin

Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 meetings, 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 is not mandatory unless such participation is required by law, though Citizens Input will be a part of the meeting if residents wish to dial in.

### **Meeting Minutes**

*A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 23 & May 4, 2020 as amended (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes Woodbury-yes*

Dr. Hicks asked if the approved PILOT agreement for North Brookfield Solar should have been a new application since the original approval was for 32 acres and increased to 35 acres. Mr. Gregory said a new application was not necessary; everything is in order.

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

Health Agent Daoust reported:

- A reverse 911 went out on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The total number of active COVID-19 cases in Spencer is currently 30 with 19 active cases and 11 that have recovered.
- Per Order of the Governor, as of May 6<sup>th</sup>, face coverings are required to be worn in public when social distancing is not possible.
- The Department of Public Health has advised that individuals in close contact to others with Coronavirus should be tested, regardless of their symptoms. A letter or text message will be provided to the individuals to bring to the testing site.
- All public recreation areas remain closed until further notice and will reevaluate the situation after the Governor's update on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Darrin reported:

- The Department is assisting the Board of Health with mask compliance and people are cooperating.
- There has been a 60% drop in traffic accidents
- Ambulance calls are also down
- Police cruisers are being disinfected the daily

### **Town Administrator Report/Update**

Mr. Gregory reported:

- Employees continue to work from home on a rotating basis
- He is in contact with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and reviewing bulletins relative to the process for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM)
- If the ATM does not take place by June 30<sup>th</sup>, a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget will be put in place on July 1<sup>st</sup>, with approval of the DOR. Large payments will be incorporated in the budget in the month the payment is due.
- He is working with Treasurer/Collector Rebecca Forand for Phase 3 borrowing for the final phase of the Comprehensive Roads project.
- Details on the Senior Center project will be discussed at a future meeting. Bids may be cancelled if it is in the best interest of the Town.

### **Review & Act to Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) (FY21-FY23) Between the Town and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police Local 175**

Mr. Gregory reported that the Board previously approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Town and the Mass Coalition of Police Local 175 in Executive Session; the final step is to approve in Open Session. If the Town begins July 1<sup>st</sup> with a 1/12 budget, increases will not take effect until approved by Town Meeting, after which, the increases will be retroactive.

*A motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (FY21-FY23) Between the Town and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police Local 175 (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes*

The Agreement provides a two percent salary increase over the next three years and a modest increase in the longevity schedule. It also offers the Quinn Education Benefit to Non-Quinn eligible Police Officers which provides a ten percent salary increase for an associate's degree, twenty percent increase for a bachelor's degree, and twenty-five percent increase for a master's degree.

### **Review & Act to Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement (FY21-FY23) Between the Town and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police Local 175A (Dispatchers)**

Mr. Gregory reported that the Agreement with the Dispatchers provides a two percent salary increase over the next three years, a modest increase in the longevity schedule, a stipend for meal breaks of up to \$1.10 per hour and a 1% matron stipend.

*A motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (FY21-FY23) Between the Town and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police Local 175175A (Dispatchers) (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes*

### **Review & Act to Establish Ground Rules for Citizens Input**

Administrator Gregory reviewed the draft document on the process for remote Citizen Input which includes creating a list of public commentators and then allowing residents to speak in order. After some discussion, the Board decided there will not be any changes to the current way Board Members participate in remote meetings. Citizen input for remote meetings will be handled in a similar manner to meetings held prior to COVID-19. Chairman Pepe does not think a time limit is necessary. The Board agreed.

*A motion to adopt the meeting Ground Rules as discussed (Woodbury/Monette) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes*

Ms. Berthiaume noted that American Stems will donate flowerpots to beautify the front of Town Hall.

### **Citizens Input**

None

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

Postponed to a future meeting.

*A motion to adjourn (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Monette-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes*

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Executive Assistant