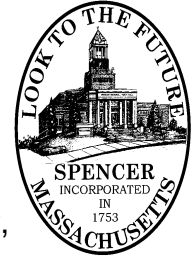


Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: January 27, 2020 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Vice Chair Monette, Clerk Berthiaume, Members Woodbury, and Hicks, and Administrator Gregory.
Chairman Pepe was absent.

Vice-chair Monette called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 January 6th and January 13th, 2020

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 6th and January 13th, 2020 (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Communications:

None

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Review & Act on Reprogramming FY18 CDBG Funds (item taken out of order per the Chair)

Administrator Gregory reported that Ted Harvey, representing PVPC would like to discuss reprogramming the FY2018 CDBG funds and if the Board agrees, there will not be a need to hold the public hearing on the FY2020 CDBG grant program.

Mr. Harvey explained in order to apply for the FY2020 CDBG program, available funds from the FY2018 CDBG program would need to be returned to the State, however he noted that it makes sense to utilize funds which the Town already has and forgo the FY2020 grant submittal. If the Board wishes to move forward in this manner, the State will be asked to authorize reprogramming the FY2018 funds and will place the Town in a better position for the FY2021 grant, when there is a larger pool of funds available.

A motion to approve the request of PVPC to reprogram FY2018 CDBG funds (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 4/0.

Public Hearing – FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)Program

A motion to take no action on the FY2020 CDBG Grant (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 4/0.

Discuss Salt Storage Facility Funding Options

Mr. Gregory researched leasing as an option for financing a salt storage facility, however he learned that the Town would be required to pledge expensive equipment, or the land and building as collateral and he does not want to obligate the Town in this manner. Currently, the best course of action is to continue to save for project. In the meantime, he will run scenarios for the impact of a \$700,000 Debt Exclusion.

Act on the Reappointment of Eleanor O'Connor as Registrar for a three-year term for the period of March 1, 2020 through March. 31, 2023

A motion to reappoint Eleanor O'Connor as Registrar for a term of March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023 (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Discuss Official Name Change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board

Dr. Hicks said he recently read an article that the State will be considering changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to Select Board to be inclusive of women, and since Spencer has women previously and currently serve on its Board, he would like to make this change.

Dr. Hicks made a motion to ask the Town Administrator to explore how to make this change. The motion was not seconded.

Ms. Berthiaume indicated that she has no concerns with having the name remain Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Monette noted that Selectmen is a New England tradition and he prefers it remain.

Old Business:

Review & Act on any Bylaw Changes to the Town of Spencer Zoning Bylaws: Section 4.8.9 - Solar Photovoltaic Generating Installations to Propose to the Planning Board

The Board previously reviewed the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee's (SBAC) recommendations and the Town Planner's report on his response. Mr. Gregory noted that the process for initiating a Zoning Bylaw Change is for the Board to recommend that the Planning Board investigate any proposed changes and bring forward to the Town Meeting.

Dr. Hicks indicated that the Bylaw needs some changes, specifically relative to setbacks, decommissioning bonds, sound decibels, landscaping to shield view, and ion and flow batteries. He noted that decommissioning is a key issue. The Planning Board will need to review the SBAC report.

A motion to provide the SBAC Report and Town Planner's Report to the Planning Board for review (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Preliminary FY2021 Budget Discussion

Administrator Gregory reviewed the FY2021 Revenue Projection #1 Analysis, noting at this time it is a moving target. The complete budget will be available for the February 10th meeting. The total new revenue number to meet Town obligations is \$680,817, exclusive of the debt services. He estimates the architectural design fee for the Senior Center to be in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range. He expects to receive the number within the next few days.

Board Liaison Reports

None

Citizen Input

Denise Lacroix, 182 Charlton Road said she assumed she'd be on the agenda per a request to the Administrator's Office and was frustrated when she realized she was not. Mr. Gregory explained that he met with Ms. Lacroix regarding her request that the Town take over ownership of the Pine Grove Cemetery, however a date for her be on the agenda was never finalized. This request will be placed on the February 10th agenda.

Dean Stevens, President of the Pine Grove Cemetery explained there is not enough money to maintain it; they received \$13,000 in revenue in 2018 and spent \$22,000. They had to close the grounds for winter due to illegal dumping and vandalism.

Matt Defosse, Paul's Drive, would like to discuss ways to improve communication between boards and committees regarding ongoing projects.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Dr. Hicks would like the requests of residents to be placed on the Selectmen's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Salt Storage Facility Funding Memo, FY2020 Community Development Block Grant funds