

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: February 8, 2022 (Tuesday)
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Woodbury, Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg, Member Hicks, and
Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges
Remote: Pepe

Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Woodbury announced that Mr. Pepe will be participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Meeting Minutes:

Review and Act on Meeting Minutes of January 10 and January 24, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of January 10 and January 24, 2022 (Hicks/Howard) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Review and Act on Executive Session Minutes of January 24, 2022, not to be released at this time

A motion to approve the executive session minutes of January 24, 2022, not to be released at this time (Howard/Hicks) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Citizens Input

Carl Kwitakowski, Meadow Road: how can residents participate in the February 17th MassDOT meeting for the Meadow Road project. Mr. Bridges: MassDot is hosting the meeting remotely and he is working on having it broadcast on SCA.

Communications

Announcement: the Board of Selectmen are accepting nominations for the 2021 Meritorious Service Award, nomination forms are available on the Town Website or in the Administrator's Office and are due by March 1, 2022

New Business:

Review & Act on the Alcohol License Application for Amendment from the Fish & Game Club for a Change of Officers/ Directors

Brian Martin, Fish and Game Bar Manager relayed to the Board that their annual election resulted in new Officers, therefore an amendment to their Alcohol License is required.

A motion to approve the Alcohol License Application for Amendment from the Fish & Game Club for a Change of Officers/ Directors (Hicks/Howard) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Review & Act on the Request of Keith Kerrigan of Terptown Throwdown for an Entertainment License to have Craft Vendors at the Spencer Fairgrounds on May 14, June 25, July 23, September 24, 2022 from 12 pm to 4 pm

Keith Kerrigan was present to request an entertainment license to hold a small-scale fundraiser with craft vendors at the Fairgrounds, similar to last year smaller event.

Mr. Pepe asked about the security in parking lots. Bob Knight representing the Fairgrounds said two police detail officers will be present at event, one in parking lot and the other in the Fairgrounds.

A motion to approve the Request of Keith Kerrigan of Terptown Throwdown for an Entertainment License to have Craft Vendors at the Spencer Fairgrounds on May 14, June 25, July 23, September 24, 2022 from 12 pm to 4 pm (Grigg/Howard) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Review & Act on the Request of Keith Kerrigan of Terptown Throwdown for an Entertainment License for Live Music at the Spencer Fairgrounds on April 23 & October 29, 2022 from 2 pm to 8 pm

Keith Kerrigan is requesting an entertainment license to have local live music acts at the Fairgrounds. The event will not have amplified sound.

A motion to approve the Request of Keith Kerrigan of Terptown Throwdown for an Entertainment License for live music at the Spencer Fairgrounds on April 23 & October 29, 2022 from 2 pm to 8 pm (Grigg/Howard) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Review & Act on the Reappointment of Patricia A. Woods to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire in March of 2025

A motion to appoint Patricia A. Woods to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire in March of 2025 (Hicks/Howard) passed 4/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-abstained; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Review & Act to Open the May 5, 2022, Annual Town Meeting Warrant

A motion to Open the May 5, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Consider Leadership Hall Induction nomination by the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Woodbury noted that the Board makes this nomination on occasion and asked Board Members to submit any nominates to the Administrator's Office by March 1st.

Mr. Pepe pointed out that the Leadership Hall Induction is not meant to be an annual event and asked the Board take into consideration it does not happen every year.

Update on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Cases

Health Agent Daoust reported:

- There have been 1,200 Coronavirus cases since August 1, 2021
- Case numbers are way down with only 42 new cases between January 19th and January 26th
- 7,693 Spencer residents have been fully vaccinated, 821 partially vaccinated, and 4,015 have received booster shots.
- At-home test kits have arrived and the COVID test policy for employees has been distributed. Ms. Daoust will provide test kits to employees as needed and will meet people outside in the parking lot to limit contact.

Review & Act to Reconsider the Mask Mandate for Town Buildings

Chairman Woodbury noted that with case numbers reduced, he is leaning towards lifting the mask mandate. Dr. Hicks said it is too soon and would like to have the discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Grigg disagreed, noting an N95 mask provides enough protection for the folks who choose to wear a mask. Dr. Hicks suggests having N95 masks available at the door for anyone who needs one. Ms. Daoust has a large supply of N95 masks and will put them by each entrance for use by the public.

Mr. Pepe pointed out that mandates are slipping away and the Town should reverse course as other communities are at this time.

Mr. Woodbury said the Board can recommend that folks wear masks, but not require it since the numbers are decreasing.

A motion to rescind the mask mandate, effective immediately (Grigg/Howard) was not voted, after a suggestion by Dr. Hicks to delay lifting the mandate until February 21st. Mr. Pepe suggested a compromise to delay until February 14th.

A motion to rescind the mask mandate as of February 14th (Grigg/Howard) passed 4/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-abstained; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury-yes

Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey

Administrator Bridges relayed that there have been seventy-three survey respondents to date. He will provide a report with comments later in the week. In the meantime, data will be collected through the end of the month.

Dr. Hicks would like to discuss using ARPA funds to install HVAC in McCourt Social Hall and the lower level of Town Hall for improved ventilation.

Mr. Bridges advised that after all project ideas have been collected and compiled, there will be a clear idea on how to use the ARPA funds. After that, the Board must declare what the funds will be used for and then a determination made on the best use of the funds, which includes assistance to the business community, restoring lost revenue in the Town Budget, and funding capital projects.

Mr. Grigg suggests holding a workshop to discuss the best use of the ARPA funds.

Mr. Pepe asked if the CIPC process will be followed for the use of these funds. Mr. Bridges said the only requirement is that the Board of Selectmen determine how to spend the funds, however if the Town Bylaws call for CIPC involvement, then that process will be followed.

Town Administrator's Report

FY2023 Budget – Projected Revenue Estimates / FY2022 Free Cash Analysis

Mr. Bridges provided a projected a report on revenue and free cash estimates.

The SEBRSD foundation budget requirement will be a challenge and further discussion will take place. The Bay Path Vocational School budget was reduced by \$150,000.

Transportation numbers have not yet been provided.

Citizen's Input

Mary Braney: both school districts will present at the joint meeting in March.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe: the Housing Production Plan Committee have a survey available in several locations throughout Town and on Town Website to obtain feedback on housing in Spencer.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, 21(a) (3), to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town and the Chair so declares: Mass Broken Stone

Amotion to enter into Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, 21(a) (3), to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town and the Chair so declares: Mass Broken Stone (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Pepe-yes; Woodbury

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Meritorious Nomination Forms, Fish & Game License application for Amendment, Entertainment Application from Terptown Throwdown,