

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: April 25, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Woodbury, Vice-Chair Howard, Member Pepe, and Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges
Remote: Selectman Hicks and Grigg
Also Remote: Attorney Ian Hedges representing P. Patel

Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Selectman Hicks and Selectmen Grigg and will be participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law and as such all votes will be roll call.

Meeting Minutes:

Review and Act on Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022 (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Citizens Input

Matt Defosse, 7 Pauls Dr.: asked for update on the status of work for the Library. Mr. Bridges: the HVAC bid came in high and a request to utilize the additional expense from ARPA funds will be discussed.

Communications

Mr. Bridges provided an update on the notice from the Department of Public Utilities: National Grid did not receive sufficient bids to fill their winter quota and are requesting a waiver of the procurement requirement from the DPU.

New Business:

Public Hearing 6 p.m. - Review & Act on the Application of P. Patel, Riddi Siddhi Corp. for a Transfer of License of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store at 2 Chestnut St. (currently Spencer Package Store)

A motion to open the hearing at 6:05 p.m. (Howard/Pepe) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Attorney Ian Hedges from Viera DiGianfilippo Law Firm, representing Pallavibahen Patel on the transfer application of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store (Spencer Package) at 2 Chestnut Street reported that Ms. Patel is the only shareholder for the License and currently owns another package store. She is familiar with ABCC regulations and is TIPS certified. The only change is with the license transfer, no other changes are being made to the business and all employees will remain.

A motion to close the hearing at 6:08 p.m. (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

A motion to approve the Transfer of License of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store at 2 Chestnut St. (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0 by roll call Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review & Act on the Request of Lori Whitney to hold a Toll Booth for DPHS Athletic Boosters from 8 am to 1 pm on June 25, 2022, with a rain date of June 26, 2022 at the intersection of Main and Pleasant Street and at the Transfer Station

A motion to approve the request of Lori Whitney of DPHS Athletic Boosters to hold a Toll Booth at the intersection of Pleasant and Main Street on June 25, 2022 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, with a rain date of June 26, 2022 (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Ms. Whitney was advised to reach out to the U & F Office for final approval at the Transfer Station.

Update on Public Hearing for Leonard Robinson/Emerald Auto Sales for a Class II Auto Dealer License to sell used cars at 324-326 Main Street (hearing will take place on May 9, 2022)

Mr. Bridges: the local newspaper failed to publish the hearing notice making it necessary to delay the hearing date until May 9th. A credit has been issued to cover the cost for a new publication and a second abutter notification mailing.

Consideration and Possible Action on a Grant Agreement for \$55,000 for improvements to the Elevator at the Spencer Senior Center

Mr. Bridges: the Town was awarded a grant to bring the elevator at the Senior Center into compliance. An RFP will be issued after the grant is finalized. Chairman Woodbury noted that the elevator is one of the oldest in the State, with the second one located in Hudson. He was advised that spare parts may be obtained.

A motion to approve the Elevator Grant Agreement (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Consideration and possible action to Authorize the Sale of a Fire Department 1994 Pro-Gen 11 KW Diesel Fuel Generator based on Auction Results

Mr. Bridges: an auction was held for a surplus generator at the Fire Department and the winning bidder was Kenny Biron with a bid amount of \$975.00; he advised the Board to accept the bid.

A motion to accept the winning bid from Kenny Biron in the amount of \$975.00 (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Policy Introduction: Police Department Body Worn Cameras

Chief Darrin: was awarded a and \$54,672.grant, which will cover the cost of body worn cameras for the Police Department. The cameras are small devices which provide a lens to be worn by law enforcement officers. It provides real time information with a clear picture of events. The Police Union agreed to a .25 cent per hour increase for the addition of the cameras. The policy will be implemented in July, after a period of testing. Chief Darrin is requesting the endorsement of the Board.

Selectman Howard asked how many cameras will be in use. Chief Darrin said there will be a total of eighteen cameras, which includes one extra. Selectman Pepe asked about potential legal implications and whether a person is notified about being recorded. Chief Darrin said cameras are being used across the country and that there will be legal challenges and revisions made as they learn more. Selectman Grigg asked how the data is being stored. Chief Darrin said it will be stored in-house.

The board will review and vote on the policy at the next meeting.

COVID-19

Update on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Cases

Administrator Bridges reported that there were seventeen new Covid-19 cases from April 13 through the 20th, and eleven new cases the week prior. 69% of residents are fully vaccinated and 39% have received boosters.

Town Administrator's Report

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

Mr. Bridges updated the budget numbers to account for additional expenditures to Snow and Ice and Legal.

A motion to reopen the May 5th Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review & Act to Finalize and Close the May 5, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

A motion to close the May 5th Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

May 10th Annual Town Election Update

The Election will take place on May 10th from 7 am to 7 pm.

Mr. Bridges reported on the summer paving program. Paving will take place on Paxton Road, Gold Nugget Road, Brown Street, Brooks Pond Cross Road, and Donnelly Cross Road. He is working to finalize an engineering agreement for the project.

Citizen's Input

Defosse: asked about publicizing the Warrant Articles proposed by Jonathan Viner.
Mr. Pepe said he liked Dr. Hicks' suggestion to insert an informational flyer in the tax bill.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe: received a call from citizen concerned about vandalism at Luther Hill Park. Mr. Bridges followed up with the individual and arranged a meeting with Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

May Meeting Dates

The Board reviewed their May meeting dates.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Transfer of License Application for P. Patel, Riddhi Siddhi; Class II Auto Dealer Application; 68 Maple St. Elevator Grant Agreement, 1994 Pro-Gen Generator Auction Results, Police Dept. Body Worn Cameras Policy, ATM Warrant