

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: June 13, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Woodbury (arrived at 6:07 pm), Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg, Selectmen Hicks, and Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges
Absent: Selectmen Pepe

Vice Chairman Howard 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

None

Citizens Input

Matt Defosse: when the public will be informed of the outcome of the executive session on Spencer Solar, LLC. Mr. Bridges: Town Counsel will be involved, and he is unsure when it will become public.

Carl Kwiatkowski:

- Why didn't the DPHS Building Committee work to regionalize with Leicester. Dr. Hicks: this is a very complex situation and would not be practical for Spencer to move to the Becker Campus.
- Only 47 students graduated from the DPHS this year, why build new additions. Dr. Hicks: 2022 was projected to be a small class due to lower birth rates. Also, approximately 40 students in the SEBRSD attend other schools, which the building project will eventually alleviate.
- What is cost to the taxpayer for the school building project. Dr. Hicks: it is estimated to increase the average tax bill by \$700 per year.

Chairman Woodbury: The Spencer-East Brookfield School Building Committee has requested a Special Town Meeting and Election and this project will be decided by the voters.

Mary Braney: interested citizens may go to DPHS Building Committee website to find the latest updates on the project.

Communications

Mr. Bridges announced that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 23rd, with a Special Town Meeting commencing at 6:55 pm.

New Business:

Public Hearing 6 p.m. Review & Act on the Application of Kevin Grillo, Ted's 3X, Inc. for a Transfer of License of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store at 10 West Main Street (currently Country Spirits)

A motion to open the public hearing at 6:21 pm (Howard/Hicks) passed 4/0.

Attorney Michael Caplette representing Ted's 3X, Inc. for a Transfer of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store at 10 West Main Street (currently Country Spirits) indicated that this is the third package store owned by Ted's, with the others in Charlton and Webster. They are requesting to transfer the license from Country Spirits and the only change will be the name change and a new sign, otherwise, there will not be any changes. The proposed manager, Kevin Grillo, has worked for Ted's for over 8 years.

Chairman Woodbury mentioned that he visited the Charlton and Webster stores and indicated that both were well operated.

There were no questions from the Board.

There were no questions from the public.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:26 pm (Grigg/Howard) passed 4/0.

A motion to approve the Application of Kevin Grillo, Ted's 3X, Inc. for a Transfer of License of an All-Alcoholic Beverages Package Store at 10 West Main Street (Grigg/Howard) passed 4/0.

Review & Possible Action on the Request of the Pepper Pot for an Entertainment License for a Farm Fest at 18 N. Brookfield Road with Live Music to be held on June 18, 2022 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Dr. Hicks wants to ensure that the neighbors are not disturbed by the request for live music. In the future, he would like to arrange to have a decibel level set. It was noted that subwoofers will not be used. Mr. Howard pointed out that it is a one-man band with music ending at 3:30 pm.

Chairman Woodbury stated that the location is in the rural residential zone and may create an issue in the future with others wishing to hold events in an area where zoning is not allowed. The Building Inspector signed off as an allowed use for a one-day event at the location.

A motion to approve the Request of the Pepper Pot for an Entertainment License for a Farm Fest at 18 N. Brookfield Road with Live Music to be held on June 18, 2022 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (Hicks/Howard) passed 4/0.

Review & Possible Action on the Request of the Spencer Fire Fighters Association for a Craft Fair to be held on October 15, 2022 from 10 am to 4 pm

A motion to approve the Request of the Spencer Fire Fighters Association for a Craft Fair to be held on October 15, 2022 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Lake Street School Common (Hicks/Grigg) passed 4/0.

Review & Possible Action on the Request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Building Committee for a Special Town Meeting to consider the David Prouty High School MSBA School Building Project during the week of September 12th through 16th

A motion to approve the request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Building Committee to hold a Special Town Meeting on September 14, 2022, or September 15, 2022 if the date conflicts with East Brookfield's date (Grigg/Hicks) passed 4/0.

Review & Possible Action on the Request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Building Committee to hold a Special Town Election for a Debt Exclusion to consider the David Prouty High School MSBA School Building Project on October 4, 2022

A motion to approve the request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Building Committee to hold a Special Town Election on October 4, 2022 (Hicks/Howard) passed 4/0.

COVID-19

Update on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Cases

Administrator Bridges reported that there were fifteen new Covid-19 cases from June 1 through June 8, and eleven new cases the week prior. 70% of residents are fully vaccinated and 40% have received boosters.

ARPA Update

Administrator Bridges provided the Board with the ARPA report and is looking for feedback for allocation of funds. Dr. Hicks suggested funding where the need is greatest; Chairman Woodbury agrees. Mr. Bridges will research further and said the funds will need to be allocated. Selectman Grigg suggested holding a workshop to review the details and allocate the funds.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Bridges:

- 1) A letter from the Worcester Regional Retirement (WRR) could impact existing retirees who have received workers compensation; WRR may reduce their retirement benefits.
- 2) The cost for Full Circle Technology's e-permitting software is \$80,000. The cost will be split between FR2022 and FY2022. The goal is to have it up and running within six months.

Citizen's Input

Matt Defosse: is in support of using ARPA funds for the Library.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Dr. Hicks stated that he wanted Mr. Kwiatkowski to be aware that it is estimated to cost \$30 million to bring the DPHS into code compliance.

Chairman Woodbury pointed out that all materials for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project must be American made as of July 1, 2022.

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: Spencer Solar, LLC

At 6:53 pm a motion 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: Spencer Solar, LLC (Hicks/Grigg) passed 4/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes; Hicks-yes; Howard-yes; Woodbury

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Public Hearing Alcohol License Application; Entertainment License Application; Letters from the SEBRSD Building Committee requesting a STM and a STE