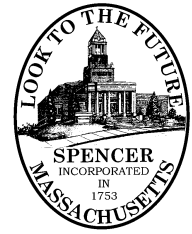


## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen



Date: October 17, 2022  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall  
Present: Chairman Woodbury Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg (arrived at 6:20 pm),  
Selectman Hicks and Pepe and Administrator Bridges

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

At 6:00 pm Chairman Woodbury called the Selectmen's meeting to order 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

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Review & Act on the Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2022**

*A motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2022 (Hicks/Howard) passed 4/0.*

### **Citizens Input**

Highway Foreman Eben Butler recognized the retirement of Kevin Simonovich after 37 years with the Highway Department. Mr. Simonovich will be greatly missed.

### **Communications**

#### **Trick-or-Treat Hours from 5 pm to 7 pm on October 31<sup>st</sup>**

*A motion to approve Trick-or-Treat Hours from 5 pm to 7 pm on October 31<sup>st</sup> (Hicks/Howard) passed 4/0.*

### **New Business**

#### **Review and Possible Action on the Request of the Worcester County 4-H Center/Camp Marshall for an Entertainment License and a Sunday Entertainment License for a Halloween Event on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>**

Sheryl Moore, Director of Camp Marshall was present to request an Entertainment License and a Sunday Entertainment License for a Halloween Event.

*A motion to approve the request of the Worcester County 4-H Center/Camp Marshall for an Entertainment License and a Sunday Entertainment License for a Halloween Event on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> (Hicks/Pepe) passed 4/0*

**Review and Possible Action on the Request of Matthew Zarif of Timbervard Brewing for a One-day Malt Beverages License at the Worcester County 4-H Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>**

Sheryl Moore, Director of Camp Marshall was present to request a one-day Malt Beverages License on behalf of Matthew Zarif of Timbervard Brewing for the Halloween event at the Worcester County 4-H Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Pepe asked if the Police Chief is aware and if the area where alcohol is being served will be cordoned off. Ms. Moore said the area will be cordoned off and that all servers are TIPS certified. All paperwork is in order.

Dr. Hicks asked if there will be a limit to the number of drinks at the event. Ms. Moore said she can set a 2-drink limit.

*A motion to approve the one-day Malt Beverages License for Timbervard Brewing at the Worcester County 4-H Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> as discussed (with the 2-drink limit) (Pepe/Howard) passed 4/0.*

**Review and Possible Action on the Proposed Layout Alteration for Smithville Road**

Selectman Howard recused himself from the discussion.

Administrator Bridges reported that the amended layout for Smithville Road must be approved by voters at the Town Meeting.

U & F Superintendent Bill Cundiff pointed out that the only portion of the road that is changing is the area at corner of Pleasant St. and Smithville Rd., at the Thibault's lot. The requested action for the Board tonight is to vote their intention to approve the layout, which will then go before the Planning Board, and finally to the Town Meeting for approval.

Mr. Thibault asked why the easement paperwork indicates it is eminent domain. Mr. Cundiff explained that it is also considered eminent domain. Mr. Thibault mentioned that he has been unable to use the 33 square foot section of his property since 1991 and asked about a rebate for the taxes paid during that time; he was advised to contact the Assessor's Office. He does not want to sign off on the document until he speaks with the Assessor.

*A motion on the intention to accept the alteration of the layout as presented (Pepe/Hicks) passed 3/0, Selectman Howard abstained.*

**Review and Possible Action on the Proposed Layout Alteration for Meadow Road**

Selectman Howard recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Cundiff advised that the only alteration on the layout for Meadow Road is in front of Charles Diner. Steve Turner, owner of the Diner was present and is in favor of the change, which is a permanent alteration.

*A motion to approve the proposed layout alteration for Meadow Road (Hicks/Pepe) passed 3/0, Selectman Howard abstained.*

Selectman Grigg arrived at 6:20 pm.

### **Review and Possible Action on the 2022/2023 Winter Parking Ban**

To alleviate issues when plowing, Highway Foreman Eben Butler would like to amend the Winter Parking Ban to change some of the language and include parking restrictions for private roads. Police Lieutenant Befford noted that he wants to limit the document to one page since they blanket the cars with it each winter to inform folks of the restrictions. After some discussion, it was decided that Mr. Butler will work with the Police Chief and Administrator on revisions and bring before the Board at their October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Review and Possible Action on the Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) for Local Public Health Services**

Health Agent Daoust reported that the Spencer Board of Health approved an intermunicipal agreement for a regional grant with the towns of Charlton, Sturbridge, Sutton, and Wales for shared public health services to hire additional employees who will be employed by Charlton.

Dr. Hicks noted that the position pays \$75,000 per year, yet only requires a High School diploma and does not require experience and appears to be a waste of public funds. If approved, he asked Ms. Daoust to inform Charlton to tighten up the requirements, experience, and education. Chairman Woodbury said no one should be hired without the proper qualifications. Selectman Pepe said his concern is if it becomes an unfunded mandate. Administrator Bridges said the agreement states that when it expires, the Town is not required to participate.

*A motion to approve the Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) for Local Public Health Services (Pepe/Grigg) passed 5/0.*

### **Review & Act to Appoint Principal Nathaniel Malone as a Member of the Cable Advisory Committee**

*A motion to Appoint Principal Nathaniel Malone as a Member of the Cable Advisory Committee Hicks/Howard passed 5/0.*

### **Review & Act on Request from the Spencer Exchange Club to hold a Toll Booth at the Transfer Station and intersection of Route 31 North & Route 9 on November 12<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

*A motion to approve the request from the Spencer Exchange Club to hold a Toll Booth at the Transfer Station and intersection of Route 31 North & Route 9 on November 12<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Pepe/Howard) passed 5/0.*

## **Covid-19**

### **Update on Coronavirus / COVID Cases**

Administrator Bridges noted that there were 17 new Covid-19 cases during the week ending October 10<sup>th</sup> and 16 new cases the week prior for a total of 2,734 cases since the inception of the virus.

### **ARPA Update**

Mr. Bridges advised the Board that all ARPA funds allotted to the Town have been received. Discussion on allocation will take place at the workshop on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

### **October 4, 2022 Special Town Election Wrap-up**

There were no follow-up actions to review.

### **Review the November 10, 2022 Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Administrator Bridges reviewed the draft warrant and budget amendments consisting of fourteen articles and supplemental data, which includes request for approval to pay two bills from previous fiscal years; a request to add a new position of Planning Assistant for ODIS; a request to change the Compensation Grade Schedule B for the Town Accountant position from a grade 6 to a grade 7.

Mr. Bridges reported:

- He met with a representative from Constellation Energy and will work with National Grid to receive energy credits on the Town's electricity accounts.
- He will check into a potential agreement with National Grid for an electricity discount for Spencer residents.
- The Town received an Aa3 rating from Moody's Investors Service, which is a healthy rating for a rural community.

### **Review November 10, 2022 Special Town Meeting Calendar**

The calendar was reviewed

### **Contracts for Consideration and Approval**

None

## **Citizens Input**

Matt Defosse, Pauls Dr.: attended a Charlton Planning Board meeting for an 800-acre solar project in Charlton and Sturbridge and finds it alarming; he was pleased to see the graffiti cleaned up at the old courthouse building.

## **Board Member and Staff Comments**

Dr. Hicks said resident Mike Malone mentioned an agreement with an electric supplier may allow citizens to purchase electricity at a reduced rate.

Chief Parsons reported on the preliminary findings relative to the fire at the landfill solar facility: two solar panels were struck by lightning and the Fire Department is unable fight the fire until the solar company disconnects the live panels from the solar field.

Selectman Howard said the Fire Department deserves a gold star for their pancake breakfast and helicopter demonstration.

## **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: Massachusetts Broken Stone**

*A motion to enter into executive session 7:10 pm (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0 by roll call vote: Grigg- yes Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes 5/0.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: 4-H Camp Marshall entertainment & 1-day alcohol license application; Plans for layout alterations to Smithville and Meadow Roads; Winter Parking Ban; IMA for LPH services