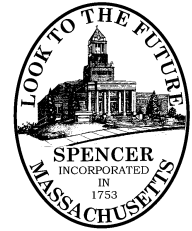


Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen / Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC)



Date: April 15, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Remote: Chairman Hicks, Vice-Chair Woodbury, Clerk Howard, Member Pepe and Administrator Gregory
Also remote: Christopher Woodbury (CIPC), Robert Ciba (CIPC), and Jonathan Viner (CIPC)

Call to Order

Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, pursuant to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have suspended public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. We are currently meeting remotely and as such, all votes will be taken by roll call in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law.

Items Taken Out-of-Order

Dr. Hicks allowed review of Article #34 on the Annual Town Meeting to take place out of order to allow Attorney Alex Weisheit an opportunity to present a brief overview and answer any questions the Board may have. A discussion ensued on this article. Dr. Hicks asked that a remote meeting be scheduled next Monday afternoon with the Conservation Commission Chair, Mary McLaughlin, Mr. Viner, Mr. Woodbury and himself to prepare to address the article at Town Meeting. Mr. Gregory said he would set up the meeting.

Dr. Hicks allowed review of Article #16 on the Annual Town Meeting to take place out of order to allow Dr. Haughey and Mr. Suter an opportunity to provide an overview of the FY2022 assessment from the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. The total assessment is \$9,331,632 which is an increase of \$230,240 (2.53%) over the current fiscal year. Mr. Pepe asked about the status of the financial overseer. Dr. Haughey explained that the deficit loan has been fully paid and that the Commissioner of Education is the only person who can determine when the overseer will be removed.

CIPC – Capital Plan Presentation

Mr. Chris Woodbury, Chair of the CIPC, provided an overview of the Committee's work this late winter and spring reviewing all the various capital requests submitted by departments,

boards, and committees. Reference was made to the 2021 Report and Recommendations of the CIPC.

Review and Act to Close and Sign the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Gregory provided an article-by-article review of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. A general discussion ensued.

A motion to close and sign the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Pep / Woodbury) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Pepe-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Woodbury-yes

Mr. Gregory asked if the Board could come sign the Warrant on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Review and Act on Holding Public Meetings at Town Hall & Other Locations

A general discussion on this matter ensued. There was consensus that future public meetings and public hearings could take place so that members of public bodies and their staff would be allowed to participate in-person; but that the public would continue to participate remotely. The Go-To-Meeting application will continue to be used to satisfy compliance with the revised Open Meeting Law regulations.

Mr. Gregory explained that the same safety precautions used last summer would be implemented again – these include sanitizing the McCourt meeting room each day and removing and replacing microphone covers after each meeting.

A motion to allow in-person public meetings and public hearings for board and committee members and their staff (Howard / Woodbury) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Pepe-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Woodbury-yes

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM (Woodbury / Howard) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Woodbury-yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gregory
Town Administrator

Referenced Materials:

April 15, 2021 Agenda for BOS/CIPC
2021 Report and Recommendations of the CIPC
2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant