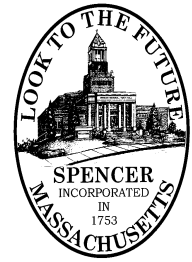


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: January 14, 2019 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Woodbury, Vice Chair Hicks, Clerk Berthiaume,
Member Pepe, Member Monette and Administrator Gregory



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

None

Fire Chief Parsons & Police Chief Darrin present a Certificate of Commendation to Erica French, Robert Gordon, William Casey and Carolyn Havalotti for their Life-Saving Water Rescue

Chief Parsons and Chief Darrin presented Certificates of Commendation to Erica French, Robert Gordon, William Casey and Carolyn Havalotti for rescuing Warren and Evenly Anderson after their vehicle went into Cranberry Pond.

Mr. Anderson thanked them and said they would not be here today if it were not for their actions.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018 as amended (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Pole Hearing 6 p.m. Act on Request of National Grid Plan #21563321 to install 6 JO Poles on Buteau Road

Kimberly Tavallaimola representing National Grid was present. Chairman Woodbury asked if any tree work or removals are being proposed.

Tree Warden Ray Holmes said Buteau Road is a scenic road and that National Grid will need to appear before the Planning Board if tree work is planned and if they are adding poles.

Ms. Tavallaimola said the change is to improve existing connections for residents in the area.

Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila indicated a hearing may not be required. He will need to see the proposal due to the scenic road status and will make a determination at that time.

Administrator Gregory advised the Board to approve the request subject to Town Planner review and/or upon confirmation from National Grid that no tree removal or work is required.

A motion to approve the request of National Grid Plan #21563321, subject to review of the Plan by the Town Planner and/or a Public Hearing with the Planning Board if tree work is involved (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

MGL Chapter 61A, §14: Review & Act on the Waiver of Right of First Refusal for Chapter 61A Land on Paxton Road (31,685 sq. ft., map/parcel: R37/9)

Attorney Stoddard was present representing property owners Carl and Constance Leinonen.

Administrator Gregory reported that the Conservation Commission has no interest in this parcel and recommends that the Board not exercise the Right of First Refusal.

A motion to waive the Right of First Refusal for Chapter 61A Land on Paxton Road (31,685 sq. ft., map/parcel: R37/9) (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.

Review & Act on Request of the Knights of Columbus to Relocate their Bingo Game License to the Spencer Senior Center at 68 Maple Street

Dr. Hicks reported that he and Selectman Monette filed conflict of interest forms with the Town Clerk since they are members of the Knights of Columbus.

Frank White reported that the Knights of Columbus property is being sold and they request permission to relocate the bingo game. He approached Council on Aging Director Pamela Woodbury and she agreed to allow the game to be moved to the Senior Center, if the Board approves.

A motion to approve the bingo license transfer from the Knights of Columbus to the Spencer Senior Center (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.

Act to Adopt the 2019 Community Comparison Chart

Administrator Gregory reported that the updated chart of comparison communities is complete for 2019. Spencer has the third lowest tax rate and the second lowest average family tax bill among the communities.

A motion to adopt the 2019 Community Comparison Chart (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Review and Act on Potential Solar Tax Exemptions

Dr. Hicks referenced an article in the Telegram & Gazette relative to issues with communities losing revenue over solar companies claiming tax exemptions; in fact, the

Town of Barre was forced to refund taxes collected from a solar developer. Dr. Hicks wants to send a letter sent to Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant asking for their support for legislation allowing communities to tax solar installations.

A motion to send a letter to Senator Gobi, Representatives Berthiaume and Durant requesting they support legislation making it possible for communities to tax solar installations (Hicks Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Old Business:

Review & Act on Request of Worm Town Genetics, LLC - Jason Moodley for a Letter of Non-opposition for a Potential Siting of a Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facility at 503 Main Street

Jason Moodley was present to request a letter of non-opposition for a medical marijuana cultivation facility at 503 Main Street. Chairman Woodbury asked about the status of the property in terms of it being a contaminated brownfield. Mr. Moodley does not have that information available at this time.

Selectmen Pepe indicated the location is a “gateway” into Spencer and wants to ensure the revised plan for the site submitted on December 10th will be adhered to and nothing less than what was drawn on the plans. Mr. Moodley agreed and said the facility will be constructed in accordance with the rendering presented on 12/10/18.

Dr. Hicks asked why the narrative mentions both medicinal and recreational. Spencer is approved for medical use only; any form of recreational is prohibited. Mr. Moodley will revise the document and remove any wording pertaining to recreational and send a revised document.

Mr. Pepe wants marijuana plants to be properly tagged to clearly separate medical from recreational marijuana. Mr. Moodley indicated that is mandated by the State.

Mr. Gregory noted that if the Board votes to issue a letter of non-opposition, it needs to be contingent upon a successful host agreement.

A motion to issue a letter of non-opposition to Worm Town Genetics, LLC, subject to a successful Host Agreement for a Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facility at 503 Main Street (Monette/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Review & Act on Request for Proposed Changes to the Town Fee Schedule for 2019

Mr. Gregory said reviewed details of the fee increases (originally reviewed by the Board on December 10th) with Paul Dell’Aquila, Bill Krukowski, Chief Parsons, and Laura Torti. Mr. Dell’Aquila lowered the fees from his original request.

A motion to approve the fee changes as presented (with ODIS revisions) (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Review & Act on Proposed Rules & Regulations for a Building Use Policy for the Senior & Community Center at 68 Maple Street

Mr. Gregory noted a revision was made to the draft reviewed on December 10th which specifies an additional rental fee for any requests for the use of more than one room.

A motion to accept the policy as written (Monette/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Review & Act on Common Victualler & Innholder License Renewals for Calendar Year 2019 for the Red Maple Inn

The owners of the Red Maple Inn were out of the country during the license renewal hearing and have since returned and since submitted renewal documents.

A motion to approve the Common Victualler & Innholder License renewal for the Red Maple Inn (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Preliminary FY2020 Budget Discussion

Mr. Gregory reviewed budget priorities for the items he would like to restore:

- A fulltime Town Accountant or Financial Director
- A fulltime Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
- A fulltime Police Officer
- Saturday Library hours
- Four full days at Town Hall

The preliminary budget will be available at the February 11th meeting.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Monette attended a CMRPC meeting and noted that Spencer is well represented on multiple projects thanks to Mr. Dell 'Aquila's efforts.

Citizen Input

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Road asked to have the changes in fees published. Departments will update fees changes on the Town Website.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a) (2), to conduct strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Police Chief)

At 7:16 pm a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a),(2), to conduct strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Police Chief) (Hicks/Pepe) passed with a roll call vote: Woodbury-yes, Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes

Return to Public Session - Review & Act on Renewal of Police Chief Darrin's Contract for the Term effective on 2/1/2019 through 1/31/2022

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Mr. Monette, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the contract renewal for Chief Darrin as presented by the Town Administrator.

The meeting adjourned 7:28 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents:

National Grid Buteau Rd. Pole Hearing
Right of First Refusal Chapter 61A Paxton Road
2019 Community Comparison Chart
Worm Town Genetics Revised Plan
Town Fee Schedule Proposed Changes
Building Use Policy 68 Maple Street
Police Chief's Employment Contract