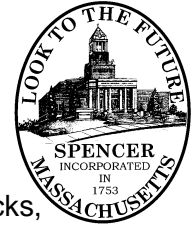


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: March 26, 2018 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Members Stevens and Hicks,
and Administrator Gregory; Clerk Monette participated remotely

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the 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

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018 Business Meeting and February 21, 2018 Workshop (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

Matt Defosse, 7 Paul Drive, asked the Board to consider a future agenda item to address his concerns with solar farm installations. Chairman Pepe said a discussion can take place at the April 18th Workshop agenda.

Communications:

None

New Business

Action Item: Vote to Approve the Petition of the Fish & Game for a Change in Alcohol License Beneficial Interest (Officers & Directors)

Fish & Game Club manager Victor Lacroix requested approval for a change in Officers and Directors/Beneficial Interest for their alcohol license. There is a change in board members with the addition of three new members.

The application and documents are complete and ready to submit to the ABCC upon approval by the Board.

A motion to approve the petition of the Fish & Game for a Change in Beneficial Interest (Officers & Directors) for their Alcohol License (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote to Approve the Request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Little League for a Parade on April 21st at 11 am with a rain date of April 28th at 11 am

Casey Cormier, President of the Spencer-East Brookfield Little League is seeking approval for their annual Little League parade scheduled for April 21st with a Rain Date of April 28th. The parade will begin at Wire Village School at 11 am.

A motion to approve the request of the Spencer-East Brookfield Little League (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0

Parks & Rec Policy Introduction: Use of Technology & Social Media

Parks and Rec member William Shemeth reported that the policy based on Fire Department's policy on social media use. The Committee would like to reach out to the public via social media and make notifications on the happenings at the parks. They also need consent from individuals and parents for photos.

The Board will take it under advisement and vote at the next meeting.

Bixby Road Tri-Party Agreement supporting the Letter of Credit for the Connector Trail

Administrator Gregory reported that SMOC is seeking a certificate of occupancy from the Town for the Bixby Road property and one of the requirements is to complete a trail from the Bixby Road development to Depot Trail. The work cannot be done at this time due to weather conditions, however the agreement and letter of credit ensure the developer will complete the work. SMOC's Attorney Paul Bauer has an amended agreement for the Board to sign.

A motion to approve the Bixby Road Tri-Party Agreement supporting the Letter of Credit for the Connector Trail (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Discussion: Drainage Easement for Cranberry Meadow Road

Mr. Gregory reported that the Town is being asked to provide a drainage easement on the Bond Sand and Gravel property. A new solar farm across the street from the property created an issue and the owner of Bond is asking the Town to acquire a drainage easement and accept any liability that may arise. Town Counsel and the Conservation Agent were consulted and did not have any concerns. It will be on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Monette asked if engineering had been done previously to ensure the work was done properly, noting that the Town will be responsible once drainage is installed. He suggested having an outside firm involved to ensure work is being done properly. Mr. Monette will explore further and report back at the next meeting.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

Present were: Mary Braney, Paul McLaughlin, Nancy Herholz, Bill Shemeth, Chris Bowen, Bill Wall, and Paul Bouvier. Tom Parker participating remotely.

The joint meeting was called to order at 7 pm. All were in favor

Bay Path FY19 Budget Presentation

Mr. Stevens abstained from the discussion.

Superintendent John Lafleche, Bob Zurkowski and Business Manager Dean Iacobucci were present.

Mr. Iacobucci presented a power point on the Bay Path budget. He reported that the preliminary budget is developed from the Governor's House 1 budget and will be finalized once the State finalizes their budget.

Chapter 70 aid has increased by over \$139,000. The FY19 Bay Path budget reflects a 2.87% increase and the overall assessment for Spencer is \$1,421,703 which is 10.5% increase from FY18. Mr. Iacobucci noted that this is the first year Bay Path has approached their towns requesting the State's required net school spending amount, in past years, they were always below.

The foundation enrollment for Spencer is 162 students with 30 students on the wait list.

Chairman Pepe asked about the employee contribution for health insurance. Mr. Lafleche said it is currently at 85/15 for employees hired prior to 2007 and at 70/30 for those hired after. The retirees are at 50/50. The District can make plan design changes without negotiations and at this time they don't expect to increase the employee contributions rates.

Considering the 10.5 % increase, the Board will ask Bay Path to provide a preliminary budget and work out the details with any future budgets.

SEBRSD FY19 Budget Presentation

Comptroller Gary Suter, Interim Superintendent Jodi Bourassa, and School Committee Jason Monette were present.

Mr. Suter reported that major changes in the operating budget include seven additional positions totaling \$269,910 in salary and \$101,500 in health insurance benefits, a stabilization fund increase for special education totaling \$20,000, and a literacy curriculum program at \$45,000. With these additions and the reduction in health care utilizing Fallon rates, the revised assessment for Spencer is \$8,726,240 which results in a \$295,753 increase over FY2018.

There was discussion on the literacy curriculum which pays for teacher resources and is needed to improve literacy skills.

Mary Braney noted that the District is not reimbursed for the transportation of students living within a half mile of the School and asked if the Town should be required to pay transportation costs.

Dr. Hicks pointed out that \$247,000 was spent on legal expense and advised the District to research other firms. He said he wants to see that number significantly reduced next year.

Chairman Pepe said the Board appreciates what the District has done to work on their budget and explained that the Town made \$160,000 in reductions for FY19 and is still faced with a \$100,000 deficit, making it difficult to accept the \$295,753 increase. Mr. Woodbury suggested the District check into rolling in the literacy program in small increments.

Mr. Suter said reducing new positions being proposed would be difficult since the needs of the community have dictated the increase. He will try to reduce insurance costs by utilizing a new carrier.

Fire Department Funds Transfer Request for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from account #11220-51000 to account #11220-57000

Mr. Gregory explained a fund transfer needs to be completed to cover the down payment on the lease to purchase the fire vehicle.

Motion by Selectmen: A motion to approve the Fire Department Funds Transfer Request for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from account #11220-51000 to account #11220-57000 (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

Motion by Finance Committee: A motion to approve the Fire Department Funds Transfer Request for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from account #11220-51000 to account #11220-57000 (C. Woodbury/Wall) passed 9/0 with a roll call vote.

Conservation Funds Transfer Request of \$2,200 from Conservation Filing Fee Account #24000-24350 to Fish & Game Bond Account #24000-24403

The Conservation Agent indicated that Graves Engineering peer review fees for the Fish and Game pond outlet structure came in higher than anticipated. The Conservation Commission is willing to spend \$2,200 from the Conservation filing fees account to pay the extra costs to help alleviate the burden on the Fish and Game Club. If the Board agrees, a vote to transfer is required.

A motion to approve the Conservation Agent's Transfer Request of \$2,200 from the Conservation Filing Fee Account #24000-24350 to Fish & Game Bond Account #24000-24403 (Monette/Woodbury) passed 5/0.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Town Administrator's Report

Review FY19 Budget & Draft Warrant

Mr. Gregory reported he is making progress on the Warrant and will have a full draft prepared by March 31st.

Board Liaison Reports

Dr. Hicks said he is concerned about the impact of dog waste on Lake Whittemore point out that the lake had to be closed in past years due to E.coli bacteria.

Chairman Pepe reported that the Economic Development Committee met recently and discussed utilizing the Spencer Fairgrounds for various events and ways to bring new industry into Town.

Mr. Stevens mentioned that artwork at the Sugden building has made a great improvement in the building facade. He is currently mounting DPHS student artwork for the display at Town Hall.

Citizen Input

Chris Woodbury asked for an update on Browning Pond. Administrator Gregory said it is a complicated issue which will involve multiple groups, including CMRPC, MassDOT, and the Planning Board. A Warrant Article at the Annual Town Meeting will ask voters to accept a portion of the road, subject to required steps taking place.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Gregory commended Paul Dell'Aquila for applying for and receiving a \$15,000 grant for downtown initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials – Fish & Game petition; Parks & Rec social media policy; Bixby Rd. Agreement; Cranberry Meadow Rd. Easement; Bay Path Budget; SEBRSD Budget; FY19 Draft Budget & Warrant