



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: November 26, 2018 – 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

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Business Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2018

On a motion by Mr. Pepe, second by Dr. Hicks, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of November 14, 2018.

Communications:

None

Citizen Input

None

New Business:

Review & Act on Application for a Junk Dealer's License for Dylan Roy d/b/a/ West of Worcester to be located at 5 & 7 Mechanic Street

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the application for a Junk Dealer's license submitted by Dylan Roy d/b/a West of Worcester.

Review & Act on Highway Dept. Request to add 9' Plow with Sander to Private Plow Rates

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Mr. Monette, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of the addition of the 9' plow with sander to the private plow rate sheet at \$125.00 per hour.

Review & Act on Speed Enforcement Options for Cherry Street

Chief Darrin was present to speak about this matter and advises that additional speed limit signs and stop signs, in consultation with the Highway Department, should be placed on Cherry Street.

There have been 25 accidents on Cherry Street during the past 3 years – a noteworthy number.

Cherry is often used as a cut-through; has considerable traffic volume; many curb cuts; and does not have greatest line of sight in some areas. Mr. Woodbury agreed that Ash/Cherry is a difficult intersection.

Chief Darrin stated that a “stop sign ahead” sign might be needed due to the crest in the road. Mr. Woodbury added that there is a problem with parking on Cherry near the funeral home. Chief Darrin replied that parking on the street can sometimes have a calming effect on traffic.

Mr. Monette expressed a concern about people from out of town not becoming aware of the new stop signs. Chief Darrin explained that the police will initiate some pre-notification before the changes are made, adding that there are no other possible options at this point.

Speed enforcement will continue to be undertaken on Cherry Street routinely, as it has been in the past.

Chief Darrin added that because this is a local decision, it can be revisited and potentially adjusted at a future date.

Dr. Hicks explained he would be willing to try these options and inquired about using a portable speed sign. Chief Darrin explained that the Town does have a portable speed sign and it is used frequently on Cherry Street.

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Mr. Pepe, the Board voted (5-0) to adopt the recommendations as outlined by Chief Darrin and to review the matter in one (1) year.

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

Referencing plans and documentation distributed to the Board, Mr. Moodley was present to provide an overview of his proposal to site a medical marijuana cultivation facility at 503 Main Street. The plan involves tearing down the existing building at this location and then to construct a 7,200 square foot growing facility. Various cost estimates and employment projections were presented over multiple construction phases.

Dr. Hicks and Mr. Woodbury both cautioned Mr. Moodley about potential contamination at this site which used to be a Ford dealership for many years. Dr. Hicks added that he would like to see something done with the existing distressed building.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Gregory, Mr. Moodley said he did not use a professional cost estimator to arrive at his construction costs and explained that the conceptual plans distributed this evening were not prepared by an architect registered to do business in the Commonwealth. Mr. Woodbury expressed concerns about the cost estimates provided by Mr. Moodley.

When asked by Ms. Berthiaume, Mr. Moodley explained that Worm Town Genetics does not have any licensed marijuana establishments in the Commonwealth at this time.

Mr. Dell'Aquila explained that this project, if it proceeds further, would be subject to full site plan review by the Planning Board.

Mr. Pepe expressed a concern about this location and the significance of its gateway status, adding that he would like to receive some feedback from the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) on strategies to successfully redevelop this gateway. Mr. Pepe stressed the need for the Board to be deliberate in its analysis of this project and would like more time for review. There may be traffic issues to be analyzed in more detail.

Mr. Monette inquired about how marijuana plants are tracked to ensure that the sold product is kept only for medicinal use. Mr. Moodley explained that the Cannabis Control Commission requires a seed-to-stem tracking system and regulates licensees to ensure compliance.

There was consensus from the Board that they would like more time to consider the proposal and to learn more from CMRPC about its work on this gateway location. Mr. Woodbury asked Mr. Gregory to reach out to Mr. Moodley to schedule a next session.

In a related matter, Mr. Pepe expressed a concern about the traffic volume due to the Cultivate facility recently opening in Leicester. Mr. Woodbury asked the Town Administrator to contact the Leicester Town Administrator to express concerns about the increased traffic and related costs to Spencer.

Old Business:

Review & Act on the Financial Polices Manual – Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Ms. Braney was present to conduct a final review of the Financial Polices Manual.

There was an extended discussion about the various stabilization accounts. There was consensus among the Board to retain all stabilization accounts with an effort to try to save money specifically for large items such as the salt shed.

On a motion by Mr. Pepe, second by Dr. Hicks, the Board voted (5-0) to accept the Financial Polices Manual as amended.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gregory stated the focus now is the Special Town Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night at 7 PM, and added that the tax title auction is scheduled for December 18th at noon.

Board Liaison Reports

None

Citizen Input

Mr. DeFosse was present to show the Board a poster the Solar Bylaw Committee had prepared showing all existing solar farms in Spencer including all pertinent project information. The Board explained he would be allowed to display the poster at the Special Town Meeting.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Ms. Berthiaume advised that the Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 1st at 7 PM.

Mr. Pepe expressed a concern about an event hosted by Reliable Bud at which it was discovered by the police that a vendor exchanged marijuana with an attendee in exchange for a donation. Mr. Gregory acknowledged that what took place is not permissible and explained that both he and Chief Darrin addressed the matter with Reliable Bud.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gregory
Town Administrator

Referenced documents:

Minute of November 14, 2018

Various handouts from Mr. Jason Moodley of Wormtown Genetics