



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: February 25, 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,
Members 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

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2019 (Monette/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Communications

Gary announced that Meritorious Service Meritorious Service Award Nominations are due to the Administrator's Office by February 26, 2019.

Citizen Input

None

New Business

Discussion: Spencer Rescue Squad FY2020 Funding Request

Mr. Monette recused himself due to his past work with the Rescue Squad.

Mr. Gregory reported that Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS) has been funded at \$150,000 each year since FY2015. At this time they are requesting an increase.

Pat George, President of the Board of Directors for the SRS reported that he met with Administrator Gregory and a few members of the Board to discuss the needs of SRS to provide sufficient service and is requesting \$225,000 in FY2020 which is an increase of \$75,000 and will allow them to continue with a second ambulance and to take care of some capital needs.

Dr. Hicks pointed out that the Town has many other commitments and will try to meet the needs of the SRS, however it is unlikely the request for increase can be provided all at one time.

Mr. George said if they don't receive the additional funding the second ambulance will need to be cut and will result in a significant increase in mutual aid calls.

Chairman Woodbury noted there is a strong possibility that funding from the State may come in lower than anticipated and will take the request under advisement.

Mr. Gregory acknowledged the need is there; nevertheless it has to be considered within the overall picture of the Town's budget which currently has a shortfall of \$381,000 from the SEBRSD request. The health insurance renewal came in lower than anticipated and will free up some funds. His recommendation is to provide SRS with a \$24,000 increase for FY2020 and increase the appropriation by 2 ½ percent each year, moving forward.

Mr. George indicated \$225,000 is the minimum amount SRS needs to operate, they've cut everything possible and Leicester is no longer assisting them.

Dr. Hicks indicated that a Proposition 2 ½ Override may be possible considering the small increase in the tax rate. Another option is to hold off on hiring the new police officer until the middle of year which will save \$40,000.

Mr. Pepe asked SRS to send their capital needs to the Town Administrator.

Review & Act on the Entertainment License & Sunday Public Entertainment License Application of Casey Pichette for a Glass Carnival on June 28-29 at the Spencer Fairgrounds

Casey Pichette and Anthony Iovino attended a Staff Technical Review meeting earlier in the month to determine what is needed to hold a Glass Carnival at the Spencer Fairgrounds.

Ms. Pichette informed the Board that they would like to hold a Glass Carnival featuring glass blowing, food trucks, live music, and carnival games.

Mr. Gregory asked if it was a family event. Mr. Iovino said it is more of an adult event and while marijuana related paraphernalia will be made at the event, they are not advocating this as a marijuana event and instead will feature a variety of artwork, including lamps, dragons, and other miscellaneous items.

Mr. Gregory said the way the event is being presented, with the carnival theme, it appears to be for families and his concern is what will actually take place. After researching the event on their Facebook page, he noticed an advertisement featuring "Uncle Stoner's Squash Off", which is clearly a marijuana event and said it is disingenuous for the applicants to represent the event to the Board as glass blowing when it clearly features marijuana activity in the advertising. Mr. Iovino said it was a temporary advertisement and the event is geared towards art, education, and entertainment.

Dr. Hicks noted that the residents of Spencer voted to ban recreational marijuana and there is too much controversy with this type of event.

Ms. Berthiaume pointed out that admission tickets are priced from \$65 all the way up to \$400 for the "VIP" treatment.

A motion to not to issue Entertainment Licenses for the Fairgrounds for the remainder of FY2019, or until a policy is developed to place additional parameters on the events (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.

Discuss & Act on Request to Purchase a Photo to Dedicate to Ms. Mary Madden

Dr. Hicks would like to purchase a print by Emile Gaucher and display at Library in honor of Mary Madden. The cost is \$200.

Ms. Berthiaume suggested Board members contribute \$40 each, rather than purchasing from Town funds. The Board agreed.

Old Business

Vote to Revise the Meritorious Service Award Policy

Mr. Gregory indicated that the Attorney General's Office confirmed that voting by paper ballot is in violation of the Open Meeting Law. In light of this information, the Policy has been revised.

A motion to approve the revised Meritorious Service Award Policy to remove the paper ballot language (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Review FY2020 Budget Update

Mr. Gregory reported that the savings on the health insurance rate resulted in \$62,000 in savings. He is waiting on the general insurance rate and the hope is it will be lower as well.

Dr. Hicks noted that the SEBRSD reduced some budget items and will continue to pare down. He would like the Board to meet with the E. Brookfield Selectmen in the future to discuss the District's Budget.

Mr. Pepe would like the District's Budget to reflect specific line items on the new increases. Mr. Gregory will make a request to Mr. Suter.

Review FY2020 Capital Requests

Administrator Gregory reviewed the list of capital requests and presented a 5-year capital plan. He noted that the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) will meet on February 26th to review the items as they prepare for the ranking process.

Board Liaison Reports

Dr. Hicks reported that the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee held a successful public hearing with over eighty people in attendance. The SBAC will take many ideas into consideration as they wrap up their work.

Mr. Pepe noted that the Economic Development Committee will be presenting a revitalization plan to the Selectmen in the near future.

Citizen Input

Matt Defosse from the SBAC thanked the business community for advertising the Solar Listening Session, residents and Board Members for attending the Session, and the Administrator for providing some of the funding to cover the costs.

Board Member and Staff Comments

None

The meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents:

Meritorious Nomination Forms
Entertainment License Application
FY2020 Budget Documents
FY2020 Capital Requests and 5-Year Capital Plan