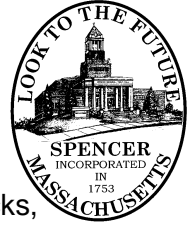


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: March 12, 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 6:08 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

Dr. Hicks announced that Selectmen Monette will participate remotely due to geographic distance.

Communications: Introduction of new Town Administrator Thomas Gregory

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Pepe welcomed new Town Administrator Thomas Gregory and thanked Interim Administrator Bill Ross for serving the Town over the past six months.

Citizen Input

William Shemeth, III, 6 Dale St.:

- Expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ross for helping the Town continue to move forward.
- Asked the Legislative Delegation to encourage the State to provide funding for Howe State Park and other outdoor recreation funding assistance.
- Urged the Delegation to support the WRTA, noting that the State has made promises that are not being fulfilled.

Mary Braney, 15 Pine Acres attend the Knox Trail event over the weekend and said it was a great success for the teachers and students. She mentioned the need for a review of Chapter 70 funding distribution.

New Business

Discussion: Annual Meeting with Legislative Delegation Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant

Senator Gobi and Representatives Berthiaume and Durant were present for their annual meeting with the Board and provided updates in the following areas: FY2019 State Budget; Chapter 70 Funding; Federal Immigration Laws & Policy on Sanctuary Cities; State Environmental Committee update on MS4 Stormwater Requirements; Legalization of Recreational Marijuana; Howe State Park Funding Restoration & Outdoor Recreation Funding Assistance.

Senator Gobi reported:

- The Governor's budget revenues are trending upward. A Question to add a millionaire's tax may be on the State Election Ballot in September and also a Question to reduce the sales tax, which if approved will reduce the revenue stream. The Governor relied on \$63 million in revenue from new marijuana laws, and \$40 million from casino revenue.

- The Cannabis Control Commission finalized their list of recommendations and recreational marijuana can be sold on July 1st, however it is uncertain what will happen, since although it is legal in Massachusetts, it is illegal under Federal Law.
- According to Auditor Bump's report, regional transportation was funded at 72% last year and is expected to be at 85% for FY19. Regional districts receive less funding than single districts.
- DCR lost 35% of their staff and has created many difficulties for outdoor resources across the State. An Environmental Bond Bill will preserve and improve environmental assets and the Senator is placing an earmark for Howe State Park to ensure funding to restore this asset.

Representative Durant noted that hearings are taking place with the Committee of Ways and Means, of which Representative Berthiaume is a member. They are working to increase regional transportation to 90%; address the rising cost of retiree health care coverage; increase local aid and add funding for Howe State Park and other outdoor recreation. The current revenue is \$700 million dollars higher than the benchmark, although it is still fluid.

Representative Berthiaume reported that the budget outlook is strong with revenue consistently exceeding benchmarks. He will keep the Board updated as the budget process moves forward.

Dr. Hicks asked to have the concerns of the SEBRSD discussed in the Ways and Means hearings to help bring the District up to an appropriate level.

Mr. Woodbury pointed out that transportation cost is excessive for the SEBRSD and he appreciates the work being done to increase regional transportation.

With regard to the policy of the Commonwealth to enforce Federal Immigration Laws, Representative Durant said that the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that local officials could not hold those in immigration status for an extended period of time and that there are no rules to allow detainment for immigration status.

Mr. Stevens said he is mindful of the ethical issue with immigration; the concern is with people who pose a threat to community and engage in criminal activity.

Senator Gobi indicated that funding is not being provided at the local level to enforce Federal Immigration Laws. Criminals will be arrested, regardless of their immigration status.

Mr. Monette expressed concern that the State is picking and choosing which laws to enforce and questioned where it will end.

Dr. Hicks expressed concern that the Police Department is already overtaxed and would be forced to apprehend non-criminal illegal immigrants.

Rep Durant said Massachusetts decided to go against the law with regard to legalizing marijuana use and must continually to decide which regulations to enforce.

Senator Gobi reported that stormwater regulations are scheduled to go into effect in 2018. Spencer is on the forefront, working with thirty communities. With regard to the MS4 Stormwater Requirements, the State Environmental Committee held discussions with DEP; however it is on hold at this time and expected to be brought back next year.

Action Item: Toll Booth Request for DPHS Athletic Boosters on April 28, 2018, with a rain date of May 5, 2018

Melissa Bernard, President of the DPHS Booster Club requests permission to hold a toll booth on April 28, 2018, with a rain date of May 5, 2018 at the intersection of Pleasant St. and Main St. Chairman Pepe asked that Chief Darrin be contacted to determine where to safely stand considering the change of the intersection.

A motion to approve the request of the DPHS Boosters (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Stevens-yes, Woodbury-yes

Ms. Bernard with contact Chief Darrin to determine where to stand.

Action Item: Reappoint Registrar of Voters Elizabeth McPherson for a three-year term

Dr. Hicks reported that the Board received a memo from the Town Clerk requesting the reappointment of Elizabeth McPherson to the Board of Registrars.

A motion to reappoint Elizabethan McPherson as Registrar of Voters for a three-year term (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Stevens-yes, Woodbury-yes

Old Business

Action Item: Vote to Approve Police Department Policy Amendment for handling the Mentally Ill

Chief Darrin presented the changes to the policy at the February 26th meeting.

A motion to Approve Police Department Policy Amendment for handling the Mentally Ill (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Stevens-yes, Woodbury-yes

Action Item: Vote to Approve Salary/Classification Study

Mr. Woodbury recused himself.

A motion to approve the new Classification/Compensation Structure as written, with eight steps (Hicks/Stevens) passed 4/0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Stevens-yes, Woodbury-recused.

The Board thanked Mr. Ross for going through the study and revising it into a workable document for the Town.

Review SEBRSD FY19 Budget & Consider Vote on Assessment

Dr. Hicks reported that the School Committee will meet on Thursday and additional information will be available after that meeting.

Town Administrator's Report:

FY2019 Budget Review

Administrator Tom Gregory said he was pleased to be in his new position. He spent time with Mr. Ross working on the FY19 budget and noted he is aware of items for consideration by the Board, including a new position for the Highway Department, additional funding for Parks & Rec, extension of Town Hall hours, and a full time Town Accountant position. Funding for the four firefighters needs

to be available when the grant expires and he has placeholders to get to that point. Free cash is currently at \$600,000, however there is a deficit in Snow & Ice and after tomorrow's storm the deficit will likely be over \$250,000.

Discussion on Oakland Drive Betterment

Mr. Ross explained that residents have asked that payment for the Oakland Drive Betterment be over a 10-year term and since some residents own more than one parcel, they would like it to be billed by owner, not by the parcel. In the event the property sells, the Betterment goes with it and must be paid or a lien will be placed on the property.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens reported that the Massasoit Art Guild will hang paintings in front windows at the Sugden building to help dress up the area. He is also in the process of preparing to hang DPHS artwork in the Town Hall.

Mr. Pepe said the Prouty Memorial Park Committee is planning to install a Vietnam War Memorial in the park.

Citizen Input

Mr. Shemeth asked the Board to develop the policy for meritorious service and leadership hall.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Chairman Pepe thanked Mr. Ross for making the new Town Administrator transition seamless and presented him with a basket of items produced in Spencer to thank him on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Woodbury said it was a pleasure working with him and was impressed by his ability to adapt.

Mr. Stevens enjoyed the thoughtful pace Mr. Ross brought to the conversation and will miss his special style.

Dr. Hicks said it was a pleasure working with him and wished him well in future endeavors.

Mr. Monette thanked him for doing the job well and for taking on so much.

Mr. Ross said he enjoyed working with the Board and the Town and over the past six months he developed a special affection for Spencer. He noted that hiring Mr. Gregory was an excellent choice.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials – Police Dept. policy amendment; Salary/Classification study