



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: April 22, 2019 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Vice Chair Hicks, Clerk Berthiaume,
Members Monette, Pepe, and Administrator Gregory.
Chairman Woodbury was absent.

Vice Chair Hicks 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 April 8, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019 (Monette/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Communications

Spencer Pride Day will take place on April 27th, rain or shine.

The DPHS Student Art Expo will be held on April 30th from 4 to 6 pm at the Town Hall.

Citizen Input

Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila announced there will be an Downtown Design Guidelines Open House from 5 to 8 pm in the Town Hall Rotunda on April 23rd to obtain feedback and determine preferences on design features people would like to see as part of downtown development.

Craig Nussey, 101 Hastings Road said he is having a water issue on his property from a berm that needs to be replaced. Mr. Gregory will check into the issue.

Bill Shemeth was pleased to see that Spencer Cable Access (SCA) plans to name the new Control Room after Al Shedyak and thanked Mr. Shedyak for his service on the Finance Committee and the SCA. He also mentioned that sewer rates will increase and the burden will fall on sewer users at an estimated \$1,000 increase per user, which is disproportionate in comparison to other services. He asked the Board to encourage the Legislators to obtain funding for these projects.

New Business

Review & Act on the Request of Spencer Cable Access (SCA) to name the SCA Control Room for Al Shedyak

Dr. Hicks noted that Mr. Shedyak was the “go to” guy for the SCA and the Finance Committee and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Pepe read a letter he received from Carol and Robert McPherson who noted Mr. Shedyak's commitment to the SCA and the Town and their pleasure with naming the Control Room "Big Al's Shed", for Al Shedyak.

A motion to name the SCA Control Room "Big Al's Shed" in honor of Al Shedyak (Pepe/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Lyne' Mcdonah from Barnstorm US Corp was present to request approval on the following license applications:

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License for events to be held at 24 Wall Street: May 5th Summer Barn; June 22nd Baggers Show; August 17th Chopper Show; and December 1st Winter Barn

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License for events to be held at 24 Wall Street: May 5th Summer Barn; June 22nd Baggers Show; August 17th Chopper Show; and December 1st Winter Barn (Pepe/Monette) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License on July 20th & 21st for the FXR/Dyna Weekend event the Spencer Fairgrounds

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License on July 20th & 21st for the FXR/Dyna Weekend event the Spencer Fairgrounds (Monette/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License on September 28th & 29th for the Jeep Campout event at Camp Marshall

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for an Entertainment License for on September 28th & 29th for the Jeep Campout Weekend event at Camp Marshall (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a Sunday Public Entertainment License for Sunday May 5th July 21st, September 29th, & Decembers 1st

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a Sunday Public Entertainment License for Sunday May 5th July 21st, September 29th, & Decembers 1st Monette/Berthiaume) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License for events to be held at 24 Wall Street: May 5th Summer Barn; June 22nd Baggers Show; August 17th Chopper Show; and December 1st Winter Barn

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License for events to be held at 24 Wall Street: May 5th Summer Barn; June 22nd Baggers Show; August 17th Chopper Show; and December 1st Winter Barn (Pepe/Monette) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License on July 20th & July 21st for the FXR/Dyna Weekend event the Spencer Fairgrounds

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License on July 20th & July 21st for the FXR/Dyna Weekend event the Spencer Fairgrounds (Pepe/Monette) passed 4/0.

Review & Act on the Application of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License on September 28th for the Jeep Campout event at Camp Marshall

A motion to approve the request of Jacob Cutler, Barnstorm US Corp for a One-day Alcohol License on September 28th for the FXR/Dyna Weekend event at Camp Marshall (Monette/Pepe) passed 4/0.

Discussion on the Increase in Sewer Rates

Dr. Hicks is the liaison to the Sewer Commission and said issues at the Sewer Plant, including the pollution of the seven mile river, need to resolve and upgrades will be costly.

Sewer Commissioners Frank White and Larry Dufault were present. Mr. White said the sewer uses will see an increase of \$32 per quarter at this time. Mr. Dufault said the current estimate for the upgrade is \$26 million. This has been an issue since 2012.

Currently there are no grants provided for sewer infrastructure. The Sewer Commissioners will hold a future meeting with State Legislators to see if any type of funding assistance can be obtained.

Town Administrator's Report

May 2, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Update

Chairman Woodbury will assign Warrant Article motions to the Board.

Mr. Gregory reported that the Planning Board proposed changes to the Zoning Articles 31, 32, and 33 and an amendment at Town Meeting will be necessary to incorporate the changes. Additional analysis will take place with the Moderator.

Moderator Shemeth said he needs additional information from Town Counsel on the Citizen's Petition and whether people can vote on the Petition. Mr. Gregory said some towns declare it inactionable and don't allow discussion to take place. Town Counsel advised allowing voters to deliberate on the Petition.

May 14, 2019 Annual Town Election Update

The only contest is for Constable.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe said the EDC will meet to discuss downtown revitalization and collaborating with the Celebrations Committee.

Ms. Berthiaume will meet with the American Legion on the 100th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for June 15th.

Dr. Hicks noted the discussion at the meeting with the SEBRSD and DESE with school funding increases being unsustainable each year due to the outdated Chapter 70 Education Funding Formula which provides only \$20 per student for the District, while Worcester receives \$600 per student. Residents cannot afford a huge tax increase to keep up with the increases.

Citizen Input

Mr. Shemeth noted the disagreement between DESE and DOR, with DOR acknowledging the Town cannot afford these increases.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Gregory noted the takeaway theme from the SEBRSC presentation was that Spencer can afford to pay the additional school funding and then a slide went up showing the excess tax levy for the Town was only \$1,200.

Mr. Pepe agreed and said increasing taxes is not the answer.

Mr. Monette pointed out that most communities are experiencing financial pressure from the increased cost in school funding and said it's time to unite to see what can be done. Dr. Hicks said it may take another lawsuit to the State to see any changes.

At 7:25 pm a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, 30A, §21(a), ¶6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate (Sugden Building (Pepe/Monette) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents:
Entertainment and Alcohol applications
Sewer Rate Comparison