



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: July 8, 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 and 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

Reorganization of the Board – Nominate Chairman, Vice Chair, & Clerk

A motion to nominate Mr. Pepe as Chairman (Monette/Hicks) passed 5/0.

A motion to nominate Mr. Monette as Vice Chair (Pepe/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

A motion to nominate Ms. Berthiaume as Clerk (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 10 and June 13, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of June 10 and June 13, 2019 (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Vote to release previously approved Executive Session Minutes of January 12, 2015; March 9, 2015; January 11, 2016; and May 23, 2016

A motion to release previously approved Executive Session Minutes of January 12, 2015; March 9, 2015; January 11, 2016; and May 23, 2016 (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Communications

Present Certificates of Appreciation to Spencer Cable Access Volunteers: Kyle Gibbons, Aaron Keyes, and Kyle Sullivan

Mr. Woodbury said that Kyle Gibbons, Aaron Keyes, and Kyle Sullivan volunteered countless hours of their time to bring the SCA studio to fruition. He thanked each of them and presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Keyes was unable to attend.

Announcement: the Dept. of Telecommunications & Cable will hold a Public Hearing on August 7th at 1000 Washington St., Boston, on the Petition of Charter Communications to adjust basic service tier programming

Dr. Hicks pointed out that between the time the Town received the notice and the date of the next meeting to discuss it, only two days were left to respond.

A motion to send a letter to request that the State provide a 30 day notice when hearings are being held (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

Linda Cox, 106 Main Street said she was concerned about the lack of safety with the traffic signal by Cormier Jewelers, which allows pedestrians to walk and cars to proceed as well. Her niece was hit by a car in the intersection recently and she would like the signal to be changed to allow either pedestrians or traffic, but not both.

Mr. Gregory indicated the traffic signal was approved by the State and is considered a nonexclusive crosswalk, which means pedestrians may proceed with caution. He will follow-up with the U & F Superintendent to determine if notification to alert pedestrians would be helpful.

John Bailey, 24 Mechanic Street said he called the State regarding this signal and was informed it was set by the request of the Town. He also mentioned that the Price Chopper crosswalk signal does not always work and suggests replacing the button.

Joel Harris, 106 Main Street said the speed limit is 40 mph on route 9, near Laney's Variety and drops to 20 mph just before you reach the DPHS. He suggests signage be installed to warn drivers to slow down.

New Business

6:00 p.m. National Grid Pole Hearing - Act on Request of National Grid to Install (1) JO Pole on Buteau Road Plan #28435081

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing opened at 6:21 P.M.

National Grid representative Joel Silva reported that the plan is to install the pole to provide service for 18 Buteau Road. Highway Foreman Eben Butler and the Tree Warden Ray Holmes both went onsite to view the location and work involved and do not have any concerns with this installation.

There were no comments from the public.

The hearing closed at 6:24 P.M. All were in favor.

A motion to approve the request of National Grid to install the pole on Buteau Road as discussed (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Review and Act on Transfer Requests per MGL Ch. 44, Section 33B:

1. Transfer \$18,000 from Fire Department Salaries Account (#11220-51000) to Fire Department Expenses Account (#11220-57000)
2. Transfer \$3,000 from Board of Health Expenses Account (#11510-57000) to ODIS Expenses Account (#11250-57000)
3. Transfer \$3,600 from the Tree Warden Salaries Account (#11494-51000) to Tree Warden Expenses Account (#11494-57000)
4. Transfer \$1,500 from General Insurance Account (#11900-57000) to Veterans Agent Expenses Account (#11543-57000)

Administrator Gregory requested the Board approve the transfer requests as outlined in his memo and listed above.

Motion to approve the Transfer Requests as discussed (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.

Review and Act on Request of the Knights of Columbus to utilize space on the third floor of the Maple Street School for the storage of Bingo Supplies

COA Director Pam Woodbury and John Howard from the Knights of Columbus (K of C) were present. Ms. Woodbury said the K of C is requesting use of a classroom on the second floor of the Maple Street School to store of their supplies. They currently have bingo supplies in the lower level of the building and need additional space.

Dr. Hicks said he is a member of the K of C and filed a notification of Conflict of Interest to Town Clerk. He suggests the K of C provide a \$10 month donation to cover the cost of electricity to use the space. Ms. Woodbury said they already plan to make a donation based on bingo game proceeds.

Dr. Hicks made a motion to allow the Knights of Columbus to use the room on the top floor for storage and to make a modest donation based on what they can afford (motion was later withdrawn).

Chief Parsons said he is concerned about changing the use of the building from education to storage, which it is a use it is not designed for. He said he has issues with combustible material in the Donations for Dignity space and would like to go through the building with the Building Inspector and will report back at the next meeting.

Ms. Berthiaume noted that the letter the Board received from the K of C indicated they requested to store files, in addition to bingo supplies.

Mr. Howard said they also want to move supplies from a storage space in Leicester. The Chief will look to see what is in the space and make a recommendation.

Dr. Hicks withdrew the motion. This item will be on the August agenda.

Review and Act on Request for Termination of Temporary Easement for property located at 101 Main Street

Administrator Gregory reported that temporary easements were placed on 101 Main Street and 113 Pleasant Street during the Main Street reconstruction project which has since been concluded and the property owners are requesting a release of the temporary easements.

A motion to release the temporary easements for 101 Main Street and 113 Pleasant Street (Pepe/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Policy Introduction: Fire Department Active Threat-Multiple Casualty Response Policy

Chief Parsons reported that a new policy for Spencer Fire and Emergency Services is being proposed to establish safe practices for rescue and EMS personnel for responding to shootings or an active shooter situation. This allows personnel to rescue and stabilize the injured once the suspect has been removed.

The Board will vote on the policy at the next meeting.

Review and Act on Request to Approve the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District Vote to Enter into a Performance Contract per MGL Ch. 25A with Siemens

Mr. Gregory said the Board voted to approve the contract for the SEBRSD and Siemens to undergo improvements at a meeting held on June 13th. At the time, the vote was drafted by Attorney Weinberg and now the District is asking the Board to take another vote which further details the

process and includes waiving the right to hold a Town Meeting to approve financing. After reviewing with Town Counsel, a decision was made to involve the DOR for guidance on this project. The Board will not vote at this time.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gregory reported:

- A memo was sent to the Library Trustees informing them of the net proceeds from the Sugden Building sale which amounts to \$45,093.55, and is being transferred to the Trustees.
- The Town received a \$14,000 grant from AARP to be used for site amenities for green space west of Sugden building.
- The new website hosted by Civic Plus is officially up and running. Mr. Gregory noted that Executive Assistant Brenda Savoie worked to coordinate the project and the training for staff.
- George Russell started work on July 2nd as the new Conservation Agent.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe said the EDC will attend the August meeting to discuss their approach to revitalizing the downtown area.

Mr. Monette commended Paul Dell'Aquila for securing grants for downtown improvements.

Citizen Input

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Road asked why Spencer doesn't have a celebration on the 4th of July in comparison to E. Brookfield. Dr. Hicks said E. Brookfield has very few full time employees which may free up funds for this type of event. Spencer has a larger population and the priority is to restore past reductions. In the past, Ms. Berthiaume organized and raised funds for the Fourth of July/Family Fun Day event, however it was a challenge to obtain enough funding and there was a great deal of work involved.

Bob Cerba, 23 Summit Street noted that Bemis Farms and other volunteers have done a phenomenal job with flowers in the downtown area. He also said he believes the District is not being transparent with the Siemen's contract and said he didn't like the way the process was handled and is concerned over what will happen if voters don't approve the funding. Ms. Berthiaume agreed, noting her concern with approving funding prior to going before Town Meeting. If voters don't approve, it will place the Town in a difficult position.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Ms. Berthiaume wants to have Pam Woodbury and Vicki LeBlanc attend the next meeting to discuss the use of the Donations for Dignity space. The next meeting is August 12th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: National Grid Pole Plan, Termination of Temporary Easement, Letter from K of C