



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: September 23, 2019 – Business Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Monette, Clerk Berthiaume,
Selectman Hicks and Administrator Gregory
Selectman Woodbury was absent

Chairman Pepe 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

Dr. Hicks announced that Chairman Pepe is away on a business trip and will be participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

A moment of silence was observed for Richard Gaudette who passed away on September 17, 2019. Mr. Gaudette faithfully served the Spencer-East Brookfield School District for over 45 years and was active in many organizations and will be greatly missed.

Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2019 (Berthiaume/Hicks) passed with roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Woodbury-abstained.

Communications

None

Citizen Input

Matt Defosse, 7 Pauls Drive, asked the Board to reject the use of batteries for solar projects under any circumstances.

New Business

Review & Act on Appointment for CMRPC Delegate & Alternate for FY2020

A motion to reappoint Jonathan Viner as the CMRPC Delegate and Selectmen Monette as the Alternate passed with roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review & Act on Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy

Mr. Gregory reported that adopting a fuel efficient vehicle policy is one of the requirements for the Green Communities designation. Public Safety and DPW vehicles are exempt from the policy.

In the interest of time, he advised the Board to make an exception to the policy which requires an introduction of any policy prior to adopting.

A motion to make an exception to the Policy on Policies for the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy (Hicks/Woodbury) passed with roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Woodbury-yes.

A motion to adopt the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed with roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Monette-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Policy Introduction: Social Media Policy for Town Employees & Officials

Mr. Gregory drafted Social Media Policy based on what other communities have in place. He acknowledged the policy will be difficult to enforce, given the First Amendment, nevertheless, it will serve as an advisory to employees. Dr. Hicks asked the Mr. Gregory to obtain a legal opinion; further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Review and Act on Request to Approve the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Vote to Authorize Borrowing for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of the David Prouty High School Feasibility Study

The Administrator reported that the School Committee voted to appropriate \$850,000 to cover the cost of a feasibility study for the DPHS. \$400,000 will come from Excess and Deficiency funds and up to \$450,000 will come from borrowing. This request requires Town Meeting approval. At this time the District is asking the Board to allow two Articles to be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant: 1) to allow the District to appropriate the \$850,000 for the feasibility study, and 2) to allow the District to create a stabilization fund for a long range capital plan.

A motion to approve the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Vote to Authorize Borrowing for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of the David Prouty High School Feasibility Study (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.
5/0.

Dr. Hicks asked if the Town's portion will come from a debt exclusion or free cash and what it will amount to for Spencer. Mr. Gregory said the District needs to obtain the actual cost of the feasibility study and the amount of the borrowing may be less than the \$450,000.

Review and Act on Request to Approve the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Vote to Establish a Regional School Stabilization Fund

A motion to approve the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Vote to Authorize Borrowing for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of the David Prouty High School Feasibility Study (Hicks/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review and Act on Crosswalk Signalization at Main Street and Pleasant Street

Dr. Hicks said he was concerned about the safety of the concurrent signal which allows pedestrians to proceed during a green light for vehicles. He learned a person was struck by a car in Boston, in the same type of intersection. He would like to see the signal remain red for up to 15 seconds to allow pedestrians time to cross safely at Wall and Main.

Superintendent Bill Krukowski indicted that the intersection cannot afford a delay since the traffic queue is currently exceeded. Additional crosswalk time will result in further delays; the VHB Study shows the backup will double in the eastbound lane and triple at the westbound. He will publish information on the Town Website and in the Spring Newsletter to educate people on how the intersection operates. It will also be on the Spencer Cable Access Bulletin Board and the Talk of the Town program.

Mr. Krukowski will ask VHB to switch the crosswalk by Chef Sau from a camera operation to a push button.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gregory reported the following:

1. The Lake Street School development team submitted conceptual plans to demolish the existing building and construct a 3-story structure and will present the plans to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Building and Property Re-Use Committee on October 7th.
2. The Town received notice from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and State Treasurer that the water main looping project has been awarded \$425,264 in loan forgiveness on the \$2,205,175 loan with Clean Water Trust.
3. The Town Center Mixed Use District Design Guidelines document has been finalized and will be uploaded to the Town's website.
4. Dr. Haughey requests a joint meeting of the BOS and the SEBRSD to take place tentatively on Tuesday, October 8th.

Review Draft Fall Special Town Meeting Calendar

The draft calendar was reviewed.

Board Liaison Reports

None

Citizen Input

Matt Defosse:

- Asked for clarification on the Green Community designation. Mr. Gregory said once designated, the Town will receive a \$160,000 grant and will be eligible for competitive funding in future years.
- Asked for update on the status of the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee report. Mr. Gregory said further analysis will be done and a meeting held in the future. This will not be on the November Special Town Meeting Warrant.

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Board Member and Staff Comments

Dr. Hicks announced he is seeking assistance to determine the year the Town-owned South Spencer Community Club was built. He is planning to write a grant to request funding for a new roof and other renovations on building. Ms. Berthiaume may have information from a prior report on the building.

Adminstrator Gregory said there is \$22,000 in cap funds not being used and transfer for general repairs to the building.

Warren- question or concern with tree, road, or town, go to TA in writing or email.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy, Social Media Policy, SEBRSD Request to Borrow