



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: October 7, 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 Woodbury, and Administrator Gregory

Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed for Robert McPherson who passed away on October 7, 2019. Mr. McPherson faithfully served the Town in many capacities, including Town Moderator and longtime member of the Spencer Cable Access Studio. He will be greatly missed.

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 September 23, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019 (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Communications

Trick-or-Treat Announcement: Halloween Hours are from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, followed by the Annual Halloween Party at Town Hall from 6:30 to 8 pm. If there is not a hard frost prior to Halloween, the Board may suggest moving the time an hour earlier due to the high risk status of EEE.

Citizen Input

None

Old Business

6:00 p.m. National Grid Pole Hearing Continued from September 9, 2019 - Act on Request of National Grid for the following pole installations:

1. Install (1) JO Pole on N. Spencer Rd. Plan #24428635
2. Relocate (1) JO Pole on Greenville St. Plan #27897675

N. Spencer Rd. Plan #24428635 - Laura Napolitano representing National Grid spoke with David Pelchat, 42 North Spencer Rd. about the pole in front of his house, which was the original location selected for the addition of heavy equipment and would be directly in front of his home. Knowing this, National Grid selected an alternative location and will install a new pole, further down the road for that equipment.

Mr. Pelchat said there will be three poles on his lawn within 120 feet of each other and while he's not happy with that, he understands the plan was made three years ago and wished he was made aware at that time and suggested trees be planted to screen the view. Dr. Hicks said when

additional utility poles are required as part of a solar array, the residents should be made aware during the permitting process.

Greenville St. Plan #27891675 – Laura Napolitano spoke with Allenette Porcher, 203 Greenville St., today to inform her that after researching the feasibility of relocating the proposed pole, it was determined the number of trees limit where the pole can be placed, therefore they are proceeding with the original plan and location. The pole is being placed on private property, owned by Bryan Grenier, 71 Chickering Rd. In addition, all trees being removed are in the right-of-way and National Grid will not remove any trees on the Porcher property.

Allenette Porcher, 203 Greenville St., is concerned about the proximity of the pole to her driveway and believes some of the trees being removed are on her property. She indicated that National Grid wanted an easement to place the pole on her property and she refused and wants clarity on where her property line is.

Chairman Pepe continued the hearing until October 21st at 6 pm. All were in favor.

Review & Act on Social Media Policy for Town Employees & Officials

A motion to approve the Social Media Policy (Hicks/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

New Business

Joint Meeting with the Building and Property Reuse Committee - Review & Act on Proposed Changes to the Lake Street School Redevelopment

At 6:29 pm the joint meeting was called to order to discuss proposed changes on the Lake St. School redevelopment project by the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development and Mainstay Living/MHPI. Present were Loni Willey from the Women's Institute, Larry Oaks from Mainstay and Christopher Novelli from Studio One.

Larry Oaks, president of Mainstay Living indicated that the Women's Institute will manage the project development and Mainstay will manage housing.

Christopher Novelli, Architect for Studio One, reported that the original plan was to fit units into the existing school building, however issues arose limiting the number of units, that coupled with the narrow size and long length of corridor, made it unworkable. The new proposal is to demo the existing building and build a new 3-story building. Mr. Novelli presented architectural plans outlining the proposed building with forty-one senior housing units. Theme is to allow interaction among senior residents. 3 types: fully accessible, visually and hearing-impaired unit, and adaptable units.

Mr. Woodbury noted that the BPRC will meet and decide if they're in agreement since this is a change to the original project. Dr. Hicks asked if there is a need to reissue the RFP. Mr. Gregory said there is not, the Town awarded and the project to the applicant and they are proposing changes to the original design.

Chairman Pepe noted that the new building is set back further from the road and is two-thirds the size of the existing building.

Once the proposal is approved, the next phase will be the zoning/permitting phase. The plan is to begin construction in 2021.

BPRC member Corey Lacaire suggested checking into ways to increase in visibility from Lake Street, turning onto Main Street as part of the process. He also noted that a plan to add classrooms in the future should be developed.

Review and Act on Request to Approve the Anti-Idling Policy (Green Communities)

The Anti-Idling Policy will be on the next agenda for the Board's approval.

Review and Act on Request to Approve the Energy Reduction Plan (Green Communities)

The Energy Reduction Plan will be on the next agenda for the Board's approval.

Review and Act on the 2019/2020 Winter Parking Ban

No changes from last year.

A motion to approve the Winter Parking Ban (Berthiaume/Hicks) passed 5/0.

Town Administrator's Report

Review November 7th Draft Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant

The Administrator reviewed 19 Warrant Articles. There was some discussion on:

Article 3- Other Post-employment Benefits Liability Trust (OPEB) - Chairman Pepe noted this a State requirement and a large liability for the Town. Mr. Gregory said a small amount will go into the Trust each year.

Article 4 - Authorization to Approve Borrowing by the SEBRSD - Mr. Gregory advised that the borrowing is for up to \$450,000 and the District may do a short term borrow which will roll over into the full project. There will not be an impact to the Town until FY20202

Article 18 - Amend the General Bylaws (animal control boarding rate to \$15) – Chairman Pepe would like the fees for Animal Control to be part of the Board's annual fee review.

Review Draft Fall Special Town Meeting Calendar

The calendar was reviewed.

Board Liaison Reports

None

Citizen Input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Chairman Pepe - EDC met last week.

A Workshop will be held on December 9th with the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee.

Administrator Gregory:

The Pleasant St. School demo bid was issued on Friday. The building may be razed by early November. Dr. Hicks would like bricks to be recovered and sold with proceeds going to the library. Mr. Monette noted that grading the parking lot to make a berm, will prevent from flooding neighbor's property.

- Retiree health insurance increase will be a modest 2.77%.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: N. Grid Pole Requests, Anti-Idling Policy, Social Media Policy, Winter Parking Ban, Draft STM Warrant