

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: October 21, 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

1. Mr. Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was read aloud.
3. There were no Members participating remotely.
4. Review / Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Dr. Hicks, the Board approved (5-0) the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Board of Selectmen's meeting.
5. Communications: None at this time.
6. Citizens Input: None at this time.
7. Old Business

7a.) At 6:05 PM, the National Grid pole hearing was continued from September 9, 2019 and October 7, 2019 for the purpose of reviewing and acting on the request from National Grid to relocate (1) JO pole on Greenville Street (referencing Plan #27891675). Ms. Laura Napolitano from National Grid was present to discuss this matter, adding that they have already moved pole #97 and would be moving a secondary pole 2 feet to accommodate the concerns of the resident at 203 Greenville Street.

8. New Business

8a.) Mr. Steve Bryer of the Exchange Club was present to discuss the request of the Exchange Club for permission to hold a Toll Booth at the Transfer Station and intersection of Route 31 North & Route 9 on November 2, 2019 with a rain date of November 16, 2019.

Mr. Bryer explained that he has an insurance certificate naming the Town as an additional insured relative to this event.

Mr. Krukowski explained that the Exchange Club would need to fill out a permit at the Utilities and Facilities Department. Mr. Bryer explained that would do so.

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the request of the Exchange Club.

8b.) Mr. Gregory explained that the Board had reviewed a draft of this new policy at the meeting on October 7th. Ms. Mimi Kaplan of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning

Commission (CMRPC) was present to comment on this policy as well as the Energy Reduction Plan (see item 8d below). Both documents are to be approved by the Board of Selectmen as part of the application for Green Communities designation.

On a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Mr. Monette, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of the Anti-Idling Policy.

8c.) Ms. Kaplan provided a detailed overview of the Energy Reduction Plan, advising that the Town will be committing to reducing energy consumption 20% in five (5) years from the baseline year of 2019. The Town can anticipate receiving a designation grant of \$160,000 +/- from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources once the Green Communities designation is made. This grant will be used to implement energy reduction strategies in buildings throughout town. In subsequent years, the Town will be eligible to participate in competitive rounds of grant funding.

Dr. Hicks inquired about the possibility of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District (SEBRSD) participate with the Town in the Green Communities designation. Ms. Kaplan said that they could be added in later.

On a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of the Energy Reduction Plan.

8d.) Referencing a memorandum dated October 21, 2019, Mr. Krukowski advised that Board that it will be necessary to raise the private plow payloader rate from \$115 / hour to \$140 / hour. Mr. Krukowski explained that a survey of neighboring communities demonstrates that the market requires Spencer to adjust its rate upward to remain competitive.

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of the new rate.

8e.) Mr. Krukowski was present to provide comments on a request for new stop signs at the intersection of Lake Street, Highland Street, and Rene Drive. Mr. Gregory explained that Chief Darrin reviewed the request and approves of the new stop sign locations. The placement of one stop sign would require vehicles travelling southbound on Lake Street to stop. The other stop sign would be installed on Renee Drive east of Lake Street to control traffic exiting Luther Hill Park.

On a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Mr. Monette, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of the installation of two (2) new stops signs at this location.

8f.) Mr. Krukowski was present to provide comments on a request for a new stop sign at the intersection of Buteau Road and Clark Road. Mr. Gregory explained that Chief Darrin reviewed the request and approves of the new stop sign location.

On a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Dr. Hicks, the Board voted (5-0) to approve of a new stop sign on Buteau Road at Clark.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gregory noted that interviews for the Building Inspector position have begun this week and that he will be meeting with the Leicester Town Administrator on Thursday to discuss a possible regional deal.

Mr. Gregory also noted that a meeting has been scheduled for November 6th with officials from the Office of Fishing and Boating Access to discuss improvements to the Browning Pond boat ramp.

Mr. Gregory distributed a draft copy of the Special Town Meeting Warrant and reviewed each of the articles, noting that a review of the document took place earlier in the day with Town Counsel, Mr. Shemeth, and Ms. Torti.

Relative to Article #17, Dr. Hicks inquired why different rates for different sized animals are not used. Mr. Gregory explained he would inquire.

Relative to Article #11, Mr. Woodbury inquired about whether ductless mini-splits are going to be used in the phase 2 work in the library. Mr. Gregory explained he would inquire.

Relative to Article #15, Dr. Hicks expressed a concern about possible exposure the Town might have doing business with an LLC constructing a solar facility in Town. The particular concern is whether the Town will be obligated to decommission a solar facility in the event the developer "walks away" from its obligation. Mr. Gregory explained that the Town, to eliminate that exposure, requires developers to secure a bond, either in the form of cash or through a surety company, which acquires a security interest in the parcel. Mr. Gregory explained that he reached out to Town Counsel to get an opinion on this matter. Dr. Hicks requests further analysis by Town Counsel on this matter, which Mr. Gregory said he would be able to accommodate.

On a motion by Dr. Hicks, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to close and sign the November 7, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Ms. Berthiaume advised that the Superintendent and Business Manager will be available to meet with the Selectmen and the Town Administrator before and during the Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Shemeth advised that the Exchange Club will be hosting a Fall Food Festival to take place on Saturday from 5-8pm at the Country Inn. Tickets will be \$20 per person, with the proceeds to assist the Powder Mill Park playground.

Mr. Shemeth advised that the Open Space and Recreation Committee has issued a survey which can be accessed on the Town's website or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpencerOSRP>

Mr. Shemeth requested that the Board forward to the Finance Committee the Energy Reduction Plan.

Mr. Shemeth provided some remarks about the passing of Bob McPherson indicating that Spencer has lost a great individual, a gracious gentleman who strived to keep the residents informed of town business in his role as Town Moderator.

Mr. Monette provided some remarks about the passing of Dick Bemis adding that Mr. Bemis was a great and generous man in the community and a supporter of green initiatives in town.

Dr. Hicks provided some comments on how the MCAS scores of students in the District have improved as of late.

Mr. Woodbury advised that John Stevens indicated that he will not be able to continue his current level in engagement in the community but will stay involved in the efforts of the Economic Development Committee as well as the Spencer Street pArty. The Board thanked him for his generosity over the years.

10. Citizens Input: None at this time.

At 7:15 PM, on a motion by Mr. Woodbury, second by Ms. Berthiaume, the Board voted (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gregory
Town Administrator

Referenced Materials

Anti-Idling Policy (Green Communities)

Energy Reduction Plan (Green Communities)

Memorandum from Mr. Krukowski to the Board of Selectmen on Private Plow Rate Increase

Memorandum from Mr. Krukowski to the Board of Selectmen on Request to Install New Stop Signs at Intersection of Lake Street, Highland Street, and Renee Drive

Memorandum from Mr. Krukowski to the Board of Selectmen on Request to Install New Stop Sign at Intersection of Buteau Road and Clark Road