

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

#08-08

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Allen and Patricia Pruitt and Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio. Allen Ross was absent. John Reynolds, Ray Godin

Approve Minutes of January 9, 2008 and February 4, 2008

Pruitt made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Allen, with changes. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Pruitt made a motion to accept the minutes of Monday, February 4, 2008. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Town Administrator's Report

- Set date to meet with Prudential Committee to discuss idea of an ambulance service
Abbondanzio: Request received from the Prudential Committee notifying the Board that the District is investigating an idea of an ambulance service for the entire Town of Montague, which would need selectmen's approval. They would like to meet with the Selectboard to discuss that.

A discussion followed and it was decided that the Board could meet with the Prudential Committee on a Monday at 5:15 PM, prior to the Selectmen's Meeting. The next Prudential Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3rd. We could use an ambulance service in town. Currently the ambulance is coming out of Greenfield and both Fire Districts have a dual response agreement with the ambulance service. The cost of financing an ambulance service was brought up, and it was decided that it would have to be discussed at a public meeting.

- **Annual Town Meeting Date**

Abbondanzio: The meeting is scheduled for May 3rd, 2008 at the Turners Falls High School.

- **Sign contract package for FY2008 Mass. Cultural Council Grant Award**

Abbondanzio: The Chairman has to sign the contract in three places. This is a two year grant that was approved by the Mass. Cultural Council for the River Culture Program, and the first year is for a \$40,000 grant. They also voted to support the second year program as well for 2009. We aren't sure of the amount at this point, that will come later, but they were very impressed by the application that was prepared. I think it was rated third in the state. The program has received a lot of recognition.

Discussion followed with emphasis being made on the positive feedback being received regarding this project. There was a bit of confusion regarding the funding, so Frank explained the details as follows: This is year three and we go on the basis of a calendar year which means all problematic stuff has to be completed by December 31st. It is a strange limbo period between December 31st and February 15th, when you get the grant award announced. Some of the local funds or some of the funds that are donated end up carrying the program during those time periods. \$40,000 Grant is for 2008, which is the year that began on January 1st through December 31st; i.e. the calendar year program. The confusion before was that the contract was actually signed in November, but actually dated February. There was some retro-actively, and that is where the confusion came in.

John Reynolds: Did I hear you say that there was a matching funds from the Town involving this?

Abbondanzio: Yes, it was \$20,000, through program income. I believe the second year was \$15,000, which was put in reserve for the second year that will match whatever the State gives us. Basically the State has approved the grant. Since the State doesn't have a budget, they don't know exactly what the amount will be.

Accept change order from Huntley Associates for Montague Public Safety Facility Project – ANR Survey Series

Abbondanzio: This is dealing with a sub-division survey work preparing a plan that will be submitted through the Planning Board. The plan is basically to split off the small acre plus piece where the Police Station will be built, from the larger 28 acre parcel. Tom Huntley is going to be doing the engineering work to prepare that plan

Allen: Is this coming to us because we signed the original as opposed to going through the Committee?

Abbondanzio: Right. \$2,500. is the fixed fee.

Pruitt made a motion to approve \$2,500 for the change order request from Huntley Assoc. for the Montague Public Safety Facility Project and the ANR Survey Series. Seconded by Allen.

John Reynolds: Is this going to trigger a set back in requirements here?

Abbondanzio: There are some issues that are going to be dealt with the Zoning Board of Appeals. We also have an environmental review process to go through. There is a sequence of events that was presented to the Committee last week. I don't have it here but the Clerk of the Works has been working with the Town Planner and the Building Inspector on determining what comes first. There is the ANR work that goes before the Planning Board, but there is also special permit work for the environmental review through the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Request for Town to waive fees (ZBA, Building, Planning, etc) for Public Safety Facility Project

Abbondanzio: We have a request to waive the fees of the various Town Departments for the police station project. This includes the building fees, which are, through town projects, typically waived as well as the Planning Board, Zoning Board and also for the electrical and plumbing inspectors fees. Dave Jensen did have a note on this that traditionally the electrical and plumbing fees don't get waived; everything else does. That is the way the inspectors are paid. I think the precedent we have is that everything else, including health gets waived. That also has to be subject to review by the Board and that is why it is here tonight.

Pruitt made a motion to approve the waiving of the fees for the ZBA, the Planning Board, the Health Board and the Building Department for the building of the police station. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Approve Change Order, Strathmore Sprinkler Work

Abbondanzio: We had additional time of 168.5 hours, representing about \$16,007.50 for labor, repairing broken pipes, replacing frozen sprinkler heads, replacing cracked fittings, including repairing the main system fire department connection piping. There is also an additional \$4,000.00 in materials. We are looking for an additional \$20,007.50 for labor and materials for that work over and above what we paid originally. A discussion followed as to what the \$2,100.00 was for. It was additional work involving the materials and work for the Fire Department connection to the main water supply was broken. A large hole rotted through the riser. They had to repair a 6" pipe from the Fire Department connection into the main sprinkler room and connect into the main system water feed. That work alone accounts for approximately 16 hours and \$600.00 in materials. We should get the vote on the \$21,575.

Pruitt made a motion to approve the change order for Royal Steam Heater Co. for additional work done at the Strathmore on the dry steam alarm system in the amount of \$21,575. Seconded by Allen.

P. Golrick: Why are we fixing water things in a dry system, or am I missing something here?

Discussion followed with Chief Godin explaining a wet sprinkler system vs. a dry sprinkler system and their differences. They have created heated space up to the valve rooms where the three different zones in the system that they worked on so that there are air compressors in there now. I am not sure if the electrician is done so I can't tell you the status of system, but they are fairly close in being able to actually turn the thing on and have it operational 24/7. It is heated to a certain point and then beyond that point the rest of the building is unheated. Water comes up to a valve in that heated space and doesn't go any further. The issue of the cost of heating this area came up. We are heating a very small area which has to be heated just enough to have the pipe come in to the valve and not have it freeze.

Motion was approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Request to form 43D Steering Committee

Abbondanzio: Letter received from Dan Laroche, Town Planner requesting the Selectmen approve the formation of a 43D Steering Committee to help with the Technical Assistance Grant that the Town received from the state for Expedited Permitting for the Town's Priority Development Site (Strathmore).

He is proposing the following people for the Committee:

Mark Fairbrother, Conservation Committee; Doug Stephens, Planning Board; John Reynolds, ZBA; Mary Melonis, Historic Commission; and Pat Allen, Board of Selectmen.

Pruitt made a motion to approve the formation of the 43D Steering Committee with the personnel, as identified.

Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously, Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Letter from FRTA regarding G-Link service for Montague

Abbondanzio: This letter deals with the G-Link service for the Town, which is a line that runs between Orange and Greenfield. Because the bus goes through Montague, we end up being responsible for some of the costs of that run. This program used to be funded by a large Federal Government Grant, but that has ended. We were initially looking at a very, very hefty increase in our state aid assessment, which was an additional \$21,000. Some of that cost is going to get covered some other way. I had asked FRTA to give us some idea as to how much that run is used by Montague people. I recommend that we wait before giving approval to continue that run through Montague, until we find out how much it is used, as the usage would definitely have an impact upon our assessment.

Discussion followed and it was decided to wait until we have the numbers from FRTA as to how many people actually use this line in Montague, as well as how often. Contact will be made with FRTA requesting this information and saying that we will bring this up at our next meeting. Perhaps even after hearing this discussion tonight, people might actually contact the Selectmen's Office and tell us if they use it and how often they use this G-Line.

Other

Abbondanzio: I received a proposal from the Boston Benefits Group today. This is in regard to the GIC, so we'll be coming before the Board and asking for a transfer fund request to go to the Finance Committee, to fund that. I want to run the proposals by the Insurance Advisory Committee first. This funding is to pay the Boston Benefits Partnership Group to do a study and compare health insurance plans as they did for the Mass Teachers Association members; basically compare the plan they had with the GIC, and look to see how much can be saved. The amount that they have quoted is \$4,400. I'll be coming forward next week with a request for that.

Allen: Thanked everyone for working so hard on all the storms that we have had. Thank you also to everyone for being patient as the Town cleans up, and thanks to the DPW for all their work on that.

Pruitt made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously, Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.