

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008**

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#18-08

Meeting was opened at 7:00 P.M. in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons: Patricia Allen, Patricia Pruitt and Allen Ross; Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Chief Zukowski, David Jensen, Building Inspector

Approve Minutes of March 17, 23 and 31, 2008 if available

Approval of minutes was postponed, since they are not available.

Liquor License Violation Hearings

Chief Zukowski: In the evening on March 20, 2008, Officers from the Montague Police Department as well as the Greenfield Police Department conducted under age compliance checks of businesses in the Town of Montague as well as in Greenfield. The police used two underage operatives; the male was 19 yrs. of age and the female was 18 yrs. of age. The identities of the two are known to the Montague Police Department. Both persons were given a breath test before they started, as well as at the end. Both times it read "zero". Capt. Newton from the Greenfield Police was the officer in charge of the operation. The following businesses, who carded and denied service to the operatives, were: Crestview Liquors, Millers Pub, Jake's Tavern, Jay K's Liquors, Montague Mini-Mart, The Rendezvous, Second Street Café, The Lady Killagrew, and Restaurant DiPaolo. The businesses that are here tonight failed.

Montague Inn – Edward Dlugosz

Discussion followed regarding the violation and subsequent retribution.

Pruitt made a motion that we require the Montague Inn to be closed for two days and to do no business during that time. Seconded by Ross. Discussion followed. Montague Inn will be closed on Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th. Chief asked that the license be dropped off at the station for those days. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Nay, Allen – Aye.

Carroll's Super Market – Govindbhai Patel

Discussion followed regarding the violation and subsequent retribution.

Ross made a motion that alcohol sales be suspended three days and there be a \$100 fine. Seconded by Pruitt. Alcohol sales will be suspended for Thursday, April 10, 2008, Friday, April 11, 2008, and Saturday, April 12, 2008. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, C & JDCH, Inc. – Carol Cameron

Discussion followed regarding the violation and subsequent retribution.

Pruitt made a motion to level a warning with a suspension. If there is another violation within a six month period, then there will be a one day suspension. If nothing happens within six months, then the suspension goes away. Seconded by Ross. Discussion followed. Approved unanimously Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Crooked River Corp; d/b/a Food City

Pruitt made a motion to give them about the same that we did for the Roadhouse, a level of warning with a one day suspension if there is any further offense within a six month period. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously.

Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Turners Falls Pizza House

Pruitt made a motion to issue a warning to the Turner Falls Pizza House with a one-day suspension up to six months. If there is no problem, then the suspension is dropped. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Town Administrator's Report

Sewer Abatements

- 21 Montague St., 4/1/07 – 10/1/07 residence not occupied during summer months Abatement request is for \$84.82. *Pruitt made a motion to grant an abatement for 21 Montague St. from \$116.82 to \$32.00 for an abatement of \$84.82. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.*
- 30 East Main St., Millers Falls Water meter removed in 2006. Abatement request is for \$138.06 to \$0.

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Pruitt made a motion to grant an abatement of \$138.06 for 30 East Main St., Millers Falls. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye.

- 69 Fourth Street, Turners Falls. One apartment empty since June 2007. Apartment building for which the Town has no control on when an apartment is occupied or empty. No abatement is recommended. *Pruitt made a motion to not abate the request at 69 Fourth Street. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.*
- 16 K Street Bill is three times higher than the previous year. Summer usage 89,000 gallons, billed for 195,000 gallons in the first half. No abatement requested for the first half, but now requested for the second half. Abatement request is from \$1,035.45 to \$472.59 for a total abatement of \$562.86. *Pruitt made a motion that we grant an abatement of \$562.86 for 16 K Street. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.*

Appoint Selectmen to sign CSO Study on May Warrant

Allen: As Chair, I have been going once a month to sign the CSO Warrant. Won't be here on the first Wednesday in May to sign. Need someone else to sign. I won't be Chair after May 21st so somebody else needs to do it. Need a motion that one of the two of you, my suggestion would be Al, because maybe he will be Chair next, who knows. I have gone to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and just signed it at 10 o'clock. The next signing will be on May 7th. Usually Sarah Campbell, the engineer, sends an e-mail message. They start their meeting at 9 and then Chong Collette and I both come in to sign at 10.

Pruitt made a motion to appoint Al Ross to sign the CSO Study Warrant. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Letter from Mass State Lottery Commission regarding KENO-to-go

- State Lottery is offering existing non-KENO agents KENO-to-go, which is identical to the already existing on-line games, such as Megabuck and Mass. Cash, with no difference in Lottery transactions to the average customer.
- In accordance with M.G.L. c 10, section 27A, as amended, you are hereby notified that the existing agents in your community are qualified to apply for KENO-to-to. If you object to the issuance of the KENO license, with no monitor, you must do so, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter.
- Discussion followed regarding lottery and the distribution of the money collected by the State Lottery. The average amount of money that spent in Montague in 2005 as of October 11th was \$787.83 per person.

Dennis Rindone, Town of Erving

- Construction work being done on the Montague Veterans Memorial Bridge that crosses over the Millers River into Millers Falls should be completed this summer. Prior to the construction, there was a nice plaque attached to that bridge. As Chair of the Route 2 Task Force, and at the last meeting, we asked Mass Highway to put the plaque back up. The Highway Dept. is unable to locate the historical plaque and the Erving Selectmen are troubled by it. We are requesting your support in putting a letter together to Mass Highway asking them to re-produce the plaque.
 - Highway Dept. said they can't put it up where it was before because the way the bridge is designed. The guardrail runs up to the bridge and is sort of wrapped around the abutment, so it eliminates a spot for the bridge.
 - There are plaques on rails right in the middle of the other bridges.
 - Feel that we could work with them to find a place if they would be willing to replace it.
 - Highway Dept. has offered us one of the tin signs on a pole, which is unacceptable to the Erving Selectmen. We would rather have a re-produced bronze plaque, with the same inscription.
 - Will draft a letter and have it signed by the Erving Selectmen and then have the Montague Select Board sign it.
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- We have a parade on Memorial Day and throw a wreath over into the water in memory of all the veterans. *Pruitt made a motion that the Montague Board of Selectmen sign onto letter to be written to the Mass. Highway by Dennis Rindone requesting reproduction of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge Memorial Sign. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.*

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Town Administrator's Report

Letters from the Montague Planning and Conservation Agent

- 43D Committee seeks a formal endorsement to move forward with the hiring of Fuss and O'Neill Engineers for the engineering and architectural study of the Strathmore Mill as outlined in their proposal.
- Approximately \$80,000 worth of work being done under the "Expedited Permitting Law". Mass. General Laws 43D.

Pruitt made a motion that we endorse the selection of Fuss and O'Neill Engineers for the engineering and architectural study at the Strathmore Mill as outlined in their proposal. Seconded by Ross. This study is to be done by the very beginning of July. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The only thing missing is any override. Final numbers on the operating budget of the Town, all of which has to be discussed and voted on at the Wednesday meeting.

Special Town Meeting

Will be held before the annual and that will be to deal with the snow and ice deficit. There is a small prior year bill, I think it was \$300.

Sidewalk Committee

David Detmold and Sharon Cottrell have been given all the information. We'll set up the committee next week.

Registration for Public Demonstration/Use of Public Property: Earth Day Parade

Allen: The parade would start up at the Sheffield Elementary School. They walk down to the Discovery Center as part of their celebration. They anticipate 300 people. That would be for Monday, April 14th, with a starting time of 9:15 AM through 11:30 AM.

Pruitt made a motion to approve the Earth Day Parade Permit for Sheffield Elementary School to take place on Monday, April 14th, 2008 at 9:15 AM and to last until about 11:30 AM. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Letter from Mark Fairbrother, TF Municipal Airport Commissioner

Allen: Read the letter from Mark Fairbrother at the meeting.

Discussion followed regarding that the Airport Commission, which is and will remain an all-volunteer service.

- **Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**

John Reynolds: Just to clarify the status of the Town's control of the Strathmore Mill relative to Mr. Bent. Is the sequencing of our ability to gain access and so on the same as it was?

Allen: Nothing has changed at this moment. Mr Bent has the right to redeem the property and the back taxes and whatever liens maybe on the property have to be paid.

Mr. Bent: Security is there. I am allowed to-----

Allen: You need permission and I think you need an escort. Is that right, David?

David Jensen: That has been the policy.

Mr. Bent: With all the security there. I have a key and I won't go in on weekends. As long as they know I will be there during the week or do I have to call and tell them that I am coming.

Allen: You need an escort to go in there.

Mr. Bent: So what are we paying the security guard for? That is his job.

Allen: I think you have to sign when you go in.

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Pruitt made a motion to go into Executive Session for purposes of Exception #1, and we are only coming out to adjourn our regular meeting. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.