

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008**

#28-08

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Meeting was opened at 7 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Pat Allen, Patricia Pruitt and Allen Ross; Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio

Approve minutes of May 12 and 20, 2008

Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, May 12, 2008 with corrections. Seconded by Allen. .

Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye Allen – abstained

Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, May 20, 2008. Seconded by Allen. Approved with two ayes and one abstention. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – abstained.

Ross congratulated the Girls High School Softball Team for their triumphant Tournament.

Sign Proclamation for Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club Day

David_____. Fifteen years ago, the Select Board signed a proclamation recognizing thirty-five years of commitment to the community.

- Our Golden Anniversary is coming up. We have done a lot for the community.
- The proceeds from all the motorcycle runs go to various organizations; most recently Alpha-1 anti-tryisin deficiency Disease.
- Last year we helped the Franklin County Nursing School Alumni Association.
- We have an annual motorcycle run that benefits a scholarship for the Franklin County Tech School.
- We are a small local, fifty member organization.
- We are proud of what we do and we hope we get Saturday, July 26, 2008 to celebrate our Golden Anniversary

Pruitt made a motion to sign the Proclamation of the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club Day on Saturday, July 26, 2008 in honor of their fifty-year history of sponsoring events in the Town of Montague. Seconded by Allen.

Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Other

Request to use Peskeompskut Park: Montague Community Band concerts

Pruitt made a motion to approve the application to place a signed object or other display in Peskeompskut Park for the Montague Community Band as represented by Lauren Clough, for their concert series: June 16, 2008, June 30, 2008, July 14, 2008, July 28, 2008, August 11, 2008 from 5 PM to 9:30 PM each date. Seconded by Allen.

Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

License to placed sign in the Right of Way: 2nd Street Baking Company

Pruitt made a motion to give the license to place a sign in the right-of-way to the 2nd Street Baking Company of 69 2nd Street. The size would be 27" x 48" and it will be on the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street (near the Sports Bar), from 7 AM to 6 PM on Tuesdays through Saturdays and from 8 AM to 1 PM on Sundays. Seconded by Allen.

Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Abbondanzio mentioned that he has received some requests from store owners regarding the trees and blocking the signs. I think the solution here is a way of getting around it by having these small movable signs (sandwich board signs). I am thinking of advocating that as a general policy as a way of preserving the streets.

Special License to be granted to the Shea Community Theater, Inc., 71 Avenue A., Turners Falls for the Tines and Tunes Benefit For Shea Theater on July 12, 2008

- Robin: This is for the liquor license. They do not need any special kind of anything for the street.
- Tom Bergeron came and looked at the site with us. The parking spaces on 6th Street that are striped are deep enough so that would give us more than enough room to do what we need to do, without closing the street or inhibiting the traffic in anyway for either the post office or anybody else who wants to go on the street.
- Tom suggested that he would like to block off the parking spaces on the Avenue right in front of the park.
- We have a tent that will be set up on the lawn. Area will be roped off.
- The Police Chief has signed off. There is nothing special that has to be signed off on as far as they know.
- Tom was also able to get them some trash containers to put in the park. They have a banner.

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- The hours will be noon until 8 PM. Free admission.
Pruitt made a motion to grant a special license to the Shea Community Theater for Tines and Tunes Benefit for the Shea Theater to be held in Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, July 12, 2008 from noon until 8 PM. Set up will be from 7 AM until noon. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.
- We are going to have the trustees of the Montague Elks Lodge be our bartenders for the day. They have done that and used their insurance. Is that acceptable or do we still have to provide our own insurance?
- Abbondanzio: I think that you just have to mention that they are doing it for that one particular day, which is a special event. They have to be identified with the event. Discussion followed regarding waiving the fee. As long as it is non-profit, the fee can be waived.

Allen made a motion to waive the fee for the special liquor license for the Shea Community Theater for the Times and Tunes Benefit to be held on July 12, 2008. Seconded by Pruitt. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Announcements

- The **barrel stickers** for trash pick up are on sale in the Collector/Treasurers' Office. The cost for the sticker is \$78.00. This sticker is good from July 1, 2008-December 1, 2008. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Next **Selectmen's Meeting** is Monday, June 30, 2008.
- **Special Town Meeting** is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at the Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Rd., Montague, MA. Dealing with budgetary issues.
- **Meeting** scheduled for 5 PM with the **Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee** tomorrow, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

Discussion followed regarding meeting schedule and video taping of meetings.

Town Administrator's Report

Sign agreement between Town and Weston & Sampson Engineers – Sidewalk Project

Bid was already awarded. Sidewalk design. The Grant part is \$40,000 and the Town part is \$24,000.

Pruitt made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign Disbursement No. 1, Invoice #162080 for the Town of Montague- Sidewalk Improvement Project for the original contract amounts of \$64,000 and this invoice in the amount of \$4,000. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Pruitt made a motion to sign the agreement between the Town of Montague and Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. for the contract for the Sidewalk Improvement Project. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Support contracting with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to plan and prepare for FY 2009 CDBG Application

- Abbondanzio: Haven't heard on our 08 Grant. ____meetings about the Block Grant for the police station.
- We are already talking about putting together the application for FY2009 and recommending that we continue to work with the Housing Authority, because they are putting that program together again for the up-coming year

Pruitt made a motion that we apply for the FY2009 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grants and the Community Development Funds and that we contact Donna Cote in writing by June 27, 2008. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

FRTA "G" Link Service

- Abbondanzio: Letter received from FRTA stating that the estimate of the assessment for this coming year is going to be \$56,174. That reflects some of the increase attributable to the loss of the money from the G-Link, and also some of it is due to the normal 2-1/2% increase that we get by law.
- FRTA needs to be notified within 30 days if we want to change the G-Link Service in Montague during the up-coming year.
- FRTA recommends that we have a public hearing to do that, just to get some feedback from the public.

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Discussion followed regarding the assessment. It was agreed to have a publicized hearing, probably in September. Nationally there is an increase in public transportation, so potentially our ridership could go up.

Letter to Mass. Highway authorizing request for permanent easement for the Gill Montague Bridge Project

- Mass. Highway Department has asked the Town for a permanent easement. This is for the Gill/Montague Bridge. There will be no grading or permanent work done.
- It is merely an access easement for the contractor.
- Mass. Highway has also approached Firstlight and is hoping that there is some expedited decision making on the granting of these easements to make sure that we can get this project out to bid as soon as possible.

Pruitt made a motion to grant permanent easement rights for a 20 square foot parcel (Parcel 2-E-1) to Mass. Highway. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Property – Auction

The property auction will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at noon in the Upstairs Meeting Room. The properties are owned by the Town. It will not be a formal purchase and sale agreement, but it will be offered to purchase the property, then there will be a subsequent approval by the Select Board. Three questions were given to Allen Ross:

#1 - Who has the authority to buy and sell town owned property?

Abbondanzio: Selectmen have the authority with a vote taken on August 27, 1996. It gave the selectmen the authority and that is the authority we have used. Colle Opera House and also all the other sales that have been done in the past.

#2 – Why was the auction not announced when the auctioneer was hired?

Abbondanzio: The auctioneer responded to an RFP that was put out by the Select Board in November 2004 in conjunction with the East Madison Avenue property. We had two bids; one from Douglas Auctioneers and one from Abramson. The Pratt Realty was considered unresponsive. The Select Board at their meeting voted to use Douglas Auctioneers for the disposal of town properties. We have been operating with him as properties come up. The RFP was done in accordance with Chapter 30B or the Brokering of Real Estate Property, etc. Douglas was the only responsible and responsive bid that was received. Basically the types of things that we asked for at that time were proposed agreement plan of services, minimum criteria, comparative criteria, and were looking for what kind of fee they would get in terms of commission, 5%.

#3 – Since the assessed values equal or are more than the override, why didn't the Town pursue this action earlier?

Ross: I am not sure that the assessed values are over or under. There is a real estate depression. I think the selling of the property is an attempt to help with our financial challenge that we are faced with right now. I am not sure that in any way it would replace the need for the override.

Allen: The need for the override is more for the operating budget and these would be one time income potentials.

Abbondanzio: That is the way it works. If we sell property at the Industrial Park for example, that money has to go into what we call the sale of real estate account. It has to be used, barring any borrowing activity, or it has to be used; for example, we used it to offset the debt service on the Industrial Park bond issue that we did back in the 90's. Selling property at an auction is a little bit different. The money you get from the sale at an auction goes back into free cash, which means that it is available for reserve.

Jeff Singleton: What town properties are up for consideration for auction?

Abbondanzio: The J Street property, 46 Dry Hill, a small parcel near Rod Shop Road, there is a small lot off Meadow Road, a small parcel down Letourneau Way, Greenfield Road, small parcel on East Street, Montague Center; Ripley Road, off Ripley Road, and Richardson Road.

Appoint Representative to FRCOG

Pruitt made a motion to appoint Pat Allen as our representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for another term. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

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Allen made a motion to appoint Patricia Pruitt as an alternate representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Signing of a Mowing Agreement with several other Towns

Pruitt made a motion to approve the agreement for sharing the mowing machine among the Towns of Leyden, Shelburne, Colrain, Bernardston and Montague. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Air/Wind/Sun Fair this past weekend

- Allen stated that this fair was fun, interesting and informative.
- There was a seminar at the Fair on starting an Energy Committee, which people know that we are working on here in Montague.
- Patricia and I were both there. Several people who are interested in being on the committee were also there.
- We have some letters from people who are interested, but others who have expressed an interest in being on the committee need to submit their letters.
- Ross: It seems as though this Energy Committee would be a way to channel funds also to help generate some resource money if individuals want to contribute that will allow matching funds to be contributed.
- Allen: That was the focus of their particular fair and the Energy Committee.
- When we get our energy audit, we will be looking at that and any other grants that we might be able to find.
- We also talked about Outreach and getting into schools and maybe getting into TRIAD.
- We also mentioned ways to save energy in your home.

Appointments to the Airport Commission

- Letters from interested people should be reviewed.
- Develop our criteria about how we are going to evaluate the various candidates.
- Agree on the criteria and then make the appointments in our subsequent meetings

Landfill Committee

- Need to activate and have the committee to have meetings
- Develop a time table
- Develop specific agenda
- Should be up and running as soon as practical
- Reach an agreement regarding a revenue stream

Sign FY09 Appointments

Appointment forms will be signed upon review and approval

Pruitt made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of Collective Bargaining and real estate. Seconded by Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.