

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, October 20, 2008
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

#43-08

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Allen Ross, Patricia Pruitt ; Patricia Allen, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio (absent); Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz, (absent); Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; David Detmold, Montague Reporter, Hugh Massey, WHAI

Approve minutes of October 6, 2008

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008. Seconded by Ross, approved unanimously. (Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye)

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent.

NPDES Update

Trombley: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (Document that allows the Town to discharge Treatment Waste Water to the Connecticut River). This permit has a term of 5 years maximum and normally they renew it every 5 years and is a fairly involved process. Surprisingly they didn't come back to us with another draft, they came back to us with a full permit. There are some new items in the permit and a series of reports that accompany the new permit and are one time issues that come around with each permit 5 year renewal: 1) Pretreatment Technical Evaluation of Local Limits due February 28 2009; 2) Inflow/Infiltration Control Plan due April 30, 2009; 3) Updated Sewer Use Ordinance due December 30, 2008; 4) Nitrogen Optimization Evaluation due February 28, 2009; Combined Sewer Overflow 9 Minimum controls due April 30, 2009. Trombley goes over changes on the permit.

CDM Engineering Agreement, Design Services for CSO Project Amendment #4

Trombley: As you know we came before the Board previously on the code issues at the facility so we can change the operations building environment to a non-explosive required area. We are trying to de rate the rest of the facility so the Town isn't put into the position of having to do explosion proof all the way through the entire operations building which would be catastrophic price wise. This is the reason for the \$75,000 amendment that was approved a few weeks back. We have looked into possible grants for a requirement by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as part of their funding requirements for our project, that we perform a vulnerability analysis and provide an emergency response plan for the Treatment Facility and there are none available. Therefore, I am back to ask for approval of that and add it to the \$75,000 for Amendment #4, bringing the total to \$82,000. I looked into doing this by purchase order, but it is better to keep it within the amendment for tracking and funding reimbursement purposes with the USDA.

Allen makes the motion to approve the addition of \$7,000 for the Emergency Response Plan and Vulnerability Analysis as part of the amendment #4 for the Combined Sewer Overflow Project. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Town Administrators Report

Sign Election Warrant

*Allen makes the motion to accept the warrant for the annual election for Tuesday, November 4, 2008 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at our usual 6 precincts and ballots that will be cast for candidates include President and Vice President, Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress for the 1st Congressional District, State Councilor for the 8th Councilor District, Senator in General -Court Franklin/Hampshire District, Representative in General Court – 1st Franklin Representative District, Register of Probate for Franklin County and Council of Governments Executive Committee Member for Franklin County. In addition there will be three questions by initiative petition: **QUESTION 1:** To reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for all categories of taxable income for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010. **A YES VOTE** would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010. **A NO VOTE** would make no change in state income tax laws. **QUESTION 2:** would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties, to be enforced by issuing citations, and would exclude information regarding this civil offense from the state's criminal record information system. **A YES VOTE** would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties. **A NO VOTE** would make no change in state criminal laws concerning possession of*

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marijuana. QUESTION 3: Would prohibit any dog racing or racing meeting in Massachusetts where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs. The State Racing Commission would be prohibited from accepting or approving any application or request for racing dates for dog racing. A YES VOTE would prohibit dog races on which betting or wagering occurs, effective January 1, 2010. A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing dog racing. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Update of Joint Meeting held on Friday, October 17th

Ross: We had a meeting of both the Town of Gill and Montague, their Selectboards, Finance Committees, Administrators, and some invited people including our Senator Rosenberg, our Representative Kulik, the Assistant Director of the Dept. Elementary and Secondary Education Jeff Wulfson, Terry Williams from the Dept. of Revenue, Ken Rocke, Mary Kociela, Lynn Bassett and others from the School Committee. This same group met previously in Boston to discuss how our school district and Towns can potentially come to an agreement on funding the schools in a way the Towns can afford and the Schools could try and accomplish their educational goals. This was the follow up stage to the meeting in Boston.

Pruitt: Another aim of the meeting was to try to point to the need for some future re-policy making in terms of funding the schools and the kind of educational requirements they are expected to provide in decreasing financial resources in looking for a plan that might last for the next few years and be clear.

Allen: I thought the folks from the State seemed open and receptive to listening to what was going on. They appeared to be very concerned and recognized we are not the only Towns going through this. At one point the mentioned we might be the first ones to break the surface on something like this, but they are going to be many other Towns coming along. My feeling was we didn't come up with a solution, but there was enough dialog that people were going to go back to the respective groups and try to figure out what's the next step.

Pruitt: I think we got a little offer of assistance towards future planning with Greenfield and some talks have gone on, but more needs to be done in that direction. There was the possibility of some assistance for Gill who is having a little more difficult financial situation than we are facing at the moment. I agree, I think they were listening very closely.

Ross: Clearly, the budget the schools want and the school district has voted for is a number the Towns feel is too high and have not approved a budget that actually comes close so there was talk about could a compromise be arrived at. In the discussion our Finance Committee and others, including the Selectboard felt that one of the ways to close that gap would be to use reserves. There has been a lot of discussion about how much, if any of reserves should be used, if used for one year, where does it leave us for next year. The general consensus is that it leaves us in a more risky, more difficult situation. The other problem with using the reserves and closing a budget gap from the Town's point of view is that Gill would be in a more difficult situation because they have little or no reserves and they would be directly dependent upon an override.

Further discussion about trying to bridge the gap with the school budget.

Letter from Alexander Nappan re: Relay for Life

Pruitt reads letter into the record thanking Chief Zukowski and the Montague Police Department for their help and support during the Relay for Life event held this past summer at the fairgrounds.

Updates

Energy Committee

Allen: Tomorrow night the Montague Energy Committee has its first meeting at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. They will be looking at specific items that can help the Town with items like the Energy Audit, ESCO and things like that, but based on discussions with many of the people we can see it developing an educational format with the Seniors and schools and expanding to townspeople with their own homes, as well as, town buildings. Then I think a component would also start looking a more global direction with all this. I think it will be pretty focused in the beginning.

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R.R. Salvage Update

Pruitt: I received a call from David Jensen before I left updating me on the R.R. Salvage building court case. There was a very lengthy discussion about whether the court can put Mr. Kosuda personally as responsible and liable financially and otherwise for the consequences of that buildings decline. There was a lively discussion of that and apparently the judge didn't come to the conclusion on the spot, but took it away to give some serious thought.

Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration: Rag Shag Parade

Allen makes the motion to approve the request to use public space and assembly for the VFW Post #923 for it's annual Rag Shag Parade on October 31, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and the parade route would be from Aubuchon's parking lot, up Avenue A to the Discovery Center. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Pruitt reads announcement from Tax Collector that she is accepting tax payments in advance

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.