

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

Tape #01-09

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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; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; David Detmold, Montague Reporter; Hugh Massey, WHAI

Approve minutes of December 15, 2008

Minutes of December 15, 2008 not available at this time

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, CSO Change Order #9

Will be discussed next week

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno, Cable Advisory Committee, Renewal of the Cable Contract with MCTV

Sawyer-Laucanno: Sent info to members last week. Went through points, MCTV met every category or exceeded. Feel they should be awarded contract for 5 years but it does need Town meeting approval. Spoke to Steve Fitzgibbons at Comcast to see what needs to be done. CAC didn't realize contract expired when it did. Fitzgibbons suggested BOS write a letter stating contract is extended until such time as town meeting ratifies or does not ratify the 5-year contract. Highlighted in letter major accomplishments by MCTV. Mike Bosworth has been a big help. Impressed with bookkeeping, an audit was done and that went well. Fitzgibbons felt it was a very professional organization, impressed with Robin. Problem at school committee meetings is with the school not MCTV, urges Robin to work with Doug on this problem. Very pleased MCTV was given boards confidence.

Ann Harding: tells what Princeton is: Big server that stores the digitized videos

Sawyer-Laucanno: Now getting financials monthly, everyone is doing a great job

Ross: I've used the studio a number of times, and the place is totally organized, the equipment is incredible, Robin is very helpful and patient and Dean has been very helpful. I encourage and urge people who aren't familiar with video to try the equipment and the studio, it is underutilized.

Pruitt makes the motion to approve an extension of the MCTV contract for 5 years pending final approval by Town Meeting at the next town meeting. Notification of this extension will be sent to Comcast. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Appointment to Cable Advisory Committee

Pruitt makes the motion to appoint Laurie Callahan to the Montague Cable Advisory Committee to a 3-year term. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Pole Location Hearing, Request to place 1 jointly owned pole on Park Street 7:22 PM

Ray Galaska, WMECO

Will be doing work on 7th street which will go into Park St. To properly guy the wires so they will stay where they are supposed to be. I need to put a pole opposite house number 5 Park Street.

Pruitt makes the motion to approve a pole for guying conductors on Park Street opposite 5 Park Street as on plan 6F810600. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Turners Falls Airport Commission, Update on the Runway Replacement Project

Mike Sweeney: Wanted to report to the Town that the runway project will begin this summer, we will be protecting the historic sites that are at the airport. The keeper of the record has deemed portions of the airport to be eligible for inclusion in the National Historic Record, a matter that has taken a while to be resolved and we're pleased it has been resolved. We will be going forward now in two phases. The first phase to replace the runway as it is plus 200' to the Millers Falls river side and once the designs are in place which avoid sensitive areas, we will then add 1,000' to the Millers Falls side of the runway; we expect this to happen in 2011, then the taxiway project will come after that a year later. The 100% funding is still in place. As you know FAA looked at our situation and our runway and said that runway has to be replaced, it really shouldn't wait another 2 years while we finish all of the new designs, lets break it up into 2 parts and get the critical part done first then the length compliance done second. The design criteria is set by the Federal Government and they will work with the parties (Mass. Aeronautics, Mass.

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Historic, Native American Tribes, the environmental people) and they will all come together and the pieces will get put in until we have a plan that is satisfactory to everyone.

Mark Fairbrother

Fairbrother: As you know I received a letter to return my key to you. I was issued that key shortly after becoming Chair of the Conservation Commission in 1998 and I was reissued that key a few years ago at the completion of the Town Hall renovation when the locks changed. Has the board voted a new policy and if so, what is the policy.

Discussion about who has keys to the building and how Chairs no longer have keys to the building. A key will be available in the Selectmen's Office to be signed out if it is needed. A policy for distribution of keys will be looked into.

**Town Administrators Report
Authorize Cell Phone Stipend**

Pruitt makes the motion to approve a cell phone stipend for Richard Clough on a prorated basis. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye

Bogusz asks for clarification on the above for Carolyn.

Bergeron told Abbondanzio that R. Clough would not be getting the full amount of the stipend as he does not use the phone all the time. Abbondanzio said Tom and Carolyn need to work out the details.

This issue will be brought up at the next meeting as there is a policy in place and exceptions should not be made (per town accountant)

Sign Option to Purchase for Map 48, Lot 50, Main Street, Montague Center

This is for the parcel Town Meeting approved on December 16, 2008 along the Sawmill River.

Pruitt makes the motion to approve the option to purchase land on the Sawmill River as described on Map 48, Lot 50, amounting to .95 acres as described in book 3734, page 149 in the amount of \$2500. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Ross: That is a very unbuildable piece of land that is also potentially subject to erosion that is also part of an adjacent property to a property where there is a structure in poor repair that is going to be cleaned up. This will facilitate the cleaning up of the land along Main Street where the Sawmill River is currently eroding. It is part of a plan to get the State Fish and Game and the Land Trust to work with us to clean it all up.

Abbondanzio is going to check to see if there is an explicit right for the Town to maintain the roadway in the event erosion of the Sawmill River affects this parcel of land. Town meeting had concerns that this be spelled out in the agreement. Frank to clarify STM requests

Request for Board to sign

Pruitt makes the motion to approve participation in the bids and contracts for purchase of #2 fuel oil, gasoline and diesel and authorize the FRCOG to contract on the Town's behalf. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Other

Abbondanzio: We received an e-mail from the Lt. Governors office informing us that the Patrick Administration is trying to put together a list of potential projects that could be funded with money provided by the Federal Government under President Elect Obama's stimulus package and we have until January 8th to put together a list of projects in the Town. We had an in house meeting today and we are looking at 3 projects. The projects we are going after are: some of the Water Pollution control work that had to be put on hold because the bids came in so high. Bob is working with CDM as this has to be done by Thursday. We are also looking at the Greenfield Road project because it is over \$6 million dollars; we are hoping some or all of it can be done using this. The other project is a new DPW garage, which is a high priority with the Capital Improvements Committee. Who knows what we will get if anything. Anything will be welcome

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- Abbondanzio announces public hearing to be held this Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 PM for Unity Park public hearing to discuss the future development of Unity Park.

- I had a meeting with Tim deChristopher today and he would like us to think about a swap of land. The property where the skate park is now with the land adjacent to his garage which we own. There is a possibility of a swap, but we wanted to make sure we kept open the option if in fact the current skate park didn't work out. It requires Town Meeting approval, we don't know if he would be willing to purchase it, there are possible 21E issues there, so there are a lot of ifs. What we're planning to do is to suggest 2 potential sites for the skate park be considered as part of the master plan, one at the existing site and one that would be created if it were to be abandoned. Tim suggested if there was a permanent arrangement that worked out at the site where the park is right now, we could also have a 5 year temporary agreement to leave the skate park where it is. A lot of things are dependent on other things and I wanted to bring that to your attention.

-Ross thanks Jon Dobosz and other members of the commission, and others for the great work that was done on Sawmill River Run.

Pruitt makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye.