

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, August 3, 2009
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

#22-09

#22

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Pruitt; Patricia Allen, Mark Fairbrother, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz; Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, Dan Laroche, Town Planner, Arn Albertini, Recorder; Dawn Montague, Montague Reporter;

Approve minutes of July 20, 2009

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2009. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Sewer Rate Public Hearing Fiscal Year 2010 (Bob Trombley, WPCF Supt., John Yahres and Kenneth Schelling of Southworth)

Fairbrother reads Sewer rate hearing notice into the record

Trombley:

- This hearing will be continued on August 17th after Town Meeting where they will hopefully vote to approve the use of \$110,000.
- We now have retained earnings certified at \$153,566 which is an estimated 13% increase over last year (last years increase was 9%).
- Using a reasonable amount, which I estimate at \$110,000, we would realize a 3% increase for FY2010 and leave \$43,566 remaining in the retained earnings account that we would carry through this year. If we have no emergencies that need to access that, it would be available at the end of the fiscal year to add into the certified amount for FY2011.

Trombley: Goes over prior year rates and requested current rates. Also goes over statewide sewer rate figures.

Yahres: We've looked over the figures and have done our research and are comfortable with the recommendation.

Allen makes the motion to set the Sewer tax rates at \$5.56 for Rate I; \$6.00 for Rate II; \$334 for the flat rate, \$6.00 for rate IV and use \$110,000 in retained earnings to apply against the rates. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Hearing will stay open until the next Selectmen's Meeting on August 17, 2009.

Combined Sewer Overflow Project – Solids Handling Upgrade, Engineering Services Amendment #5

Trombley: We have been given notification that we have a million dollars in STAG Grant available to the Town, a State and Federal assistance grant and there is \$339,947 left over from the CSO project. The question has been asked, of the project components from the plant upgrades that we haven't been able to do, is there anything there we can reach that makes sense and do? The proposal on the table is for the solids handling upgrade, which in my estimates would save the town about \$70,000 in operational costs at the Treatment Facility. Before we can do this we have to do a feasibility study to see if we can fit this into the \$1.2 million.

- CDM has made a proposal based on a previous meeting: 1) Conceptual Design and Estimate of Probable Cost, 2) Final Design and Revised Cost Estimate and 3) Engineering Services During Construction

Paul Gilbert, CDM:

- There are soils/structural concerns associated with the existing operations building and funding constraints
- CDM would go in and do the borings to get an indication of the structural settlement and cracks in the garage area with the goal of getting a cost estimate. This would include geotechnical, structural, architectural, electrical, determine code classification and work with the Town to make a decision. At the end of the process, meet with regulators, DEP, RD to make sure everyone is on board.
- Want to do this project without bidding, by doing a design built on change orders, and that saves everyone money. All indications so far say we can do it that way, we just want to confirm it.
- Would like to come back in 5 – 6 weeks and tell the Board there is sufficient funding to do this.

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Allen inquires as to the overall costs that CDM would be charging for all three phases?

Gilbert: Not certain because of the unknown. Estimates Task 2 would be between \$120,000 - \$140,000 roughly to do the design and Task 3 would be approximately \$100,000 - \$130,000. (These are only Mr. Gilberts estimates and he does not want to be held to them).

Discussion regarding costs of engineering compared to the whole project.

Allen requests more information on the engineering costs at the next meeting (what has already been done and what still needs to be done).

Abbondanzio feels we might want a peer review prior to moving on to another step (after step 1)

Trombley reminds the Board a Peer review has been done previously. They did not find any problems and it cost the town approximately \$24,500.

Allen makes the motion that the Town of Montague approve amendment #5 for the CSO agreement with Camp Dresser and McKee, originally dated July 22, 2005 for Task #1 Conceptual Design and Estimate of Probable Cost for Solids Processing. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Gilbert: Escalated costs are due to the geotechnical and the garage

Trombley: CSO issue: 5.2 million gallons went through the plant on Friday and there were no violations.

Industrial Pretreatment – Renewal of the Discharge Permit for Appleton Performance Packaging/New England Extrusion.

Allen makes the motion to renew permit 071304 for Appleton Performance Packaging – Films, New England Extrusion, Inc. effective July 6, 2009 for a five year period to expire on July 6, 2014. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Pruitt – Aye

WPCF – Other

Darby Chagnon passed his Operators exam. When we receive his letter from DEP saying he is an Operator in Training, all the personnel at the plant with the exception of Tina are now licensed facility operators.

Lisa Davol, Cultural Coordinator, Turners Falls River Culture

Registration for Public Demonstrations/Use of Public Property – Turners Falls Block Party

Discussion about the lack of funds available for police coverage due to the cut in community policing funds and the hope that in the future some type of account could be set up to help organizations out with this cost.

Allen makes the motion to approve the request to use public property for the TF River Culture Block Party on August 8, 2009 and blocking off the street at noon until 11:00 pm between Third and Fifth Street. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother Aye, Pruitt – Aye,

Requesting a key to Town Hall

Allen makes the motion to allow Lisa Davol as Cultural Coordinator for the Turners Falls River Culture Project to have a key to town hall.. Seconded for discussion by Fairbrother.

Fairbrother inquires about whether or not a key policy is in place, reminding the Board that in January 2009 it stated that a policy was being developed, and points out the inconsistency of the Board in issuing this key to recent previous actions and statements by the Board regarding key policy. *approved 2 - 1. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Abstained* The Board would like a policy put in place.

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Dan Laroche, Town Planner, Green Community Technical Assistance Grant

Laroche: I'm here to get a letter of commitment from the BOS for an application the Town is submitting to get a technical assistance grant for the Town to become a green community. There is a technical assistance program through the Dept. of Energy Resources that will help the town to do some planning to move forward. One of the requirements is that the Selectmen commit to the best of their ability and power to meet the 5 criteria that are required to be green communities. Criteria Status: #1 – meet, #2 – meet, #3 working on meeting; #4 – would require a policy by the BOS, not in place at this time; #5 – needs to be adopted. The money we received from this grant would help the FRCOG help us to meet #3, #4, and #5.

Allen makes the motion to submit an application to the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Program for a planning technical assistance grant. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Town Administrators Report

- Quorum is important for Town meeting on Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 PM. If we fail to get a quorum, we will be voting positively in favor of the school assessment.
- Douglas Auctioneers will be holding the Tax title properties on August 17, 2009 at 74 – 78 J Street and 1 Linda Lane at the sites (6:00 and 6:30 pm)
- Would like to schedule a special meeting for an update on Strathmore with John Anctil next week.
- Railroad salvage purchase and sale agreement was signed today between the receiver and James Bent. The deed will only pass to the purchaser when demolition is completed. He has a year to do the demolition and 90 days to comply with the Building Inspectors orders to make the building safe. The asbestos assessment and removal of the asbestos is considered an immediate item. The current date to start this work is August 14, once all the permits are in order. Barring an appeal by the owner of the courts which would prevent the sale or delay things moving forward on that. The idea is to get the area safe within 90 days, so hopefully the road can be opened.
- Received word on cops grants and we were not awarded. Awards were made prominently in the eastern part of the State.
- The FCSWMD has been working with Nexamp to conduct an evaluation of landfills in the county to determine their possibility for developing solar. There is a lot of interest in doing this (Federally) so we want to get as much information as we can. We are not talking a lot of money to participate in the assessment.

Allen makes the motion to proceed with the assessment by Nexamp for the possible citing of photovoltaic panels at the landfill at the cost of approximately \$250 and to recognize that it includes the capped landfill and new landfill area, which is approx. 100 acres (all applicable areas). Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Community Development Block Grant

There will be a hearing on August 17 and things will be done differently. This deals with the Social Service component of the grant application. In the past we knew there were two major social service providers that we would ask to submit information that meets the CDBG guidelines, give us a program then help the Housing Authority put together that part of the application. DHCD is not going to accept that in the future. They are looking for us to really define the social service need and to go through an RFP process, assuming there might be

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other vendors out there who could either do it differently or offer other types of programs that would better suit the needs of the town. This year we are going to develop an RFP and the Selectmen will have to appoint a social service review committee. You will put out a notice saying you are looking for letters of interest and the social service providers will have to send back a letter of interest. They will also have to get involved in assessing needs, do public forums, surveying of the public at those forums and determine what the actual needs are; is there really support for the programs they are proposing. We would also be contacting the schools, Council on Aging and other people with the surveys as well. We thought of doing a town wide survey but the time to do this would be incredible, so we decided to do the public forum instead. Once the agencies get back to us with their proposals, they will tell us what the findings were at the public forums and at that point we will take all the information and then put out an RFP that says these are the top needs identified at the public forums and through our individual surveys and tell us how you are going to meet these prioritized needs with your program. Then we will develop \$100,000 worth of social service programs. We were going to set up a \$20,000 minimum threshold and for every dollar you get in grants you have to come up with a 100% match. We would have maximum grants of \$50,000 so you would have to have a \$100,000 project.

Other

- *Allen makes the motion to approve the use of public property for the 5K and Play fundraiser for Katie "Shea" Liimatainen which will be on Saturday, August 15th from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The 5K road race will start and end at the Turners Falls High School. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

- Fairbrother reads announcement regarding the Beautiful Future event to be held on August 12 at Peskeompskut Park at 7:00 PM

- Fairbrother reads announcement from the Airport Commission regarding the grant award from the Federal Aviation Administration and Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission totaling \$5,122,000 to replace the runway at the airport with no costs to the Town of Montague

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye