

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, August 17, 2009
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

#23-09

#23

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 (absent); Arn Albertini, Recorder; Dawn Montague, Montague Reporter;

Approve minutes of August 3, 2009

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2009. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Douglas Auctions Update

Auction of property on J Street was held with 6 registered buyers. The property was sold to high bidder for \$30,000 plus \$1,500 buyers premium to Dexiong Lin, a resident of 110 Third Street, Turners Falls. The auction of the property on Linda Lane was postponed.

Allen makes the motion to approve the sale of 74 – 78 J Street property, Map 3, Lot 31 in Montague to Dexiong Lin for \$31,500 including the fee pursuant to all the legal information being correct. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Bill Travis, Baystate Health Ambulance, Montague becoming a HEARTSafe Community

Travis: Manager at Baystate Health Ambulance. Heartsafe Community is through the Dept. of Public Health, the American Heart Association to promote communities that invest in helping save lives and helping with heart attacks and strokes. There is certain criteria that communities can put forward to display they supported it, invested in it, invested in the equipment and response and recognize the community as a Heartsafe Community. You will get a couple of signs to post in the Town, but really it is recognition to your residents that you are investing in that. Right now with the economy and everybody is trying to cut back, but the Town of Montague is moving forward and investing in and helping to save lives. You qualify as a Heartsafe Community, I have done the application describing the four links and the chain of survival. 1) Phone call (all calls transferred to them and they triage call and give life saving instructions over the phone. 2) CPR (lots of training going on in Montague) 3) AED (They are in police cruisers, on fire trucks, in Fire Departments and have BHA 4) Paramedic level service (answers emergency calls in the Town of Montague 24/7). These are the 4 links for the chain of survival, and you qualify. I have done the application you just have to sign the document and submit it, if you want to participate.

The second piece is the service zone plan. I called Frank a while back and said we were the primary ambulance service, and I was going to do all I can to help, you may not be aware of this, but every community in Massachusetts was supposed to turn in a service zone plan by 2006. I've contacted Chief Godin and Chief Green and I've submitted a rough draft similar to the plans I submitted for the other communities.

BHA wants to feel more secure in the future. We don't have a formal agreement with the Town of Montague. If we're going to invest a lot of money into patient care, we want to know we are still going to be serving the Town of Montague in the future. I'm sure you want to know that tomorrow we're not going to tell you, we're not going to come to your town anymore. We've done this with Greenfield, they have signed a three year agreement that we are their ambulance service, there is no cost, but we just want to feel secure. There is a clause in this agreement that is a one year notification, so if you decide you no longer want BHA to respond to the Town of Montague and there is another ambulance service you would prefer, we would need just one years notice. Prior to 1996 we were charging communities.

Allen inquires about BHA moving to Springfield and Mr. Travis states he lives in Leyden, is the Manager of the Company and has some say.

Contract is given to the Selectmen for their review.

Town Administrators Report

Continuation of FY10 Sewer Rate Hearing

Allen makes the motion to set the Sewer tax rates for this year at Rate I - \$5.56; Rate II and IV are \$6.00; Flat Rate - \$334; Non- Contract Surcharges Total Suspended Solids \$0.3601 per pound, BOD \$0.3466 per pound; Septage In

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Town and Town of Gill \$90/1,000 gallons, out of Town \$95/1,000; Interest rate will be 14% per Annum, Demand Charge \$5.00; Minimum Bill will be \$36.00 and we will use \$110,000 in retained earnings as voted at Town Meeting. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Approve Building Security and Key Policy for Town Hall

- With the Police Dept. moving out we need a policy for the security of the building also.
- Everyone that needs to get into the building for meetings does have a key as it will no longer be possible for people to go through the police dept. if they don't have a key.
- Developed policy where the chair of every committee is given a key to Town Hall.
- We need to be more watchful of making sure someone takes responsibility for locking the doors and shuts off the lights.
- Would like the police to add Town Hall to their rounds (This is not to be added to policy)
- Ad hoc committees/special committees will not be given keys to Town Hall
- "As needed" to be added throughout policy
- It should be specified who signs keys out and who keys are to be returned to

Cultural Council Appointments

Appointment dates of Cultural Council need to be made more consistent with other appointments in Town.

Allen makes the motion to appoint to the Cultural Council which will bring their expiration dates into sync, Lisa Davol to expire 6/30/2010; Lisa Enzer to expire 6/30/2010; Matthew Latkiewicz to expire 6/30/2011; Claudine Mussuto to expire 6/30/2012; Lynn Rudie 6/30/2010; Meghan Walsh 6/30/2012. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Discuss change in Civil Service Appointment Procedures

We received a letter from the Human Resource Division saying that starting September 1st the Division will no longer be making appointments and promotions under civil service. They will be delegating that responsibility to the local level. We will still get our lists from them, but will be responsible for most of the notification. It means more paper work on our end; they will still have civil service appeals going to the commission. We were told this will be implemented after August 31st and civil service will be contacting us with more information.

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market are changing the hours of operation due to the success. The new hours will be 1:15 pm until 6:30 PM on Wednesdays.

Allen makes the motion to approve the change of the use of public property for the Montague Farmers Market at the Discovery Center, the hours will be 1:15 PM until 6:30 PM on Wednesdays for the duration of the season. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Engineering agreement with Tighe & Bond

Allen makes the motion to sign the FY10 Engineering Agreement of the Landfill Monitoring Services with Tighe and Bond for \$13,000. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Registration for Public Demonstrations/Use of Public Property: 3rd Street Youth Sculpture Park

Allen makes the motion to approve the use of Public Property on September 19th from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM at the Youth Sculpture Park for sculpting for teens with live and recorded music. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Allen makes the motion to go into executive session for the purposes of litigation at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:49 PM

7:50 PM

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FY2010 CDBG Public Hearing, Bruce Hunter, FCRHRA

Abbondanzio reads public hearing notice into the record

Abbondanzio: The purpose is to solicit public comment and discussion on the activities that the Town should apply for in the upcoming FY2010 application. This is Federal money that comes from the Housing and Urban Development Department that is administered through the Dept. of Housing and Community Development. The national objective that we will be achieving through this grant is benefiting low and moderate income residents of the Town. The Town plans to contract with the Housing and Redeveloping Authority to administer the grant.

Hunter: I just want to bring you up to date on our last application that was awarded which was 2007. That had three components to it:

- Sidewalk improvements on Unity Street, Seventh Street and Spring Street. Those streets were all repaired, sidewalks were replaced in all places, some had new curbing and all made handicap accessible where feasible. There was also a bonus component up near Scotty's to allow for a safety intervention for the bus stop and school children to pass that large intersection at Unity Street. We believe it has worked fairly well to date. As another part of the sidewalk improvements, the Town has completed and will be signing off in the next week or two, the completion of a quarter million dollar bond, Town Meeting vote portion for completion of sidewalks in Montague City, Millers Falls and Turners Falls.
- Housing Rehab Program for downtown Turners Falls area. Goal was 6 houses to be rehabbed and 10 were actually completed. This was a very successful project.
- Catholic Social Ministries completed their program over a year ago. It was a family support/worker program and the goals were exceeded.

The 2007 grant will be monitored and closed out within the next 6 months.

2009 CDBG Grant

Abbondanzio: This was just awarded last week and it's great news. We got everything except one item on it. Two social service programs were funded for a total of \$100,000. One was cut back \$50,000 that was the Bridge to Success with the Catholic Social Ministries that has a match of \$25073. The Brickhouse Montague Green Jobs project was funded at the full \$50,000 request, the match was \$20,500. The Unity Park project is moving ahead; the Town applied for Bid writing, plans and specs and the CDBG funded \$51,270 for the design. The Housing Rehab program got funded for a total of \$357,454. The only element that didn't get funded was the Millers Falls Slums and Blight Study. The Town applied for \$110,000 and we will be asking DHCD to review that item to find out why it wasn't funded.

Hunter goes over process of money being released to the Town. The Town took an educated guess to start and complete the review process of an RFP for a designer which will be recommended by the Parks Design review committee to the Parks and Rec Commission and the Board of Selectmen their approval. The project is here, it is the final concept, and included in the RFP is the option for the skateboard park. When that comes about all the candidates knew there would be the option for the skateboard park, when that happens it will be included as part of the project and the project will go forward over the next four months to develop bid ready plans and specifications and we hope then to determine how the project will be phased.

The Housing Rehab program is going to be in two communities this year. We applied in Millers Falls and downtown Turners Falls. 20% of the total funds of \$357,000 will be able to be used outside of those two areas to service Lake Pleasant and Montague Center for emergency situations only. Once we receive the review notes from DHCD, we might appeal the decision.

Slum and Blight Study is to determine if there is 25% of the buildings within a certain area are blighted or in deterioration. If they are, the need for that study will be to eliminate that blighted area so the target neighborhood can come back to its normal state. The Housing Rehab Program is scattered, it is not concentrated on one neighborhood.

CDBG FY2010 Grant Application Discussion

Abbondanzio: Typically we have the housing component, social service component, public facility part and we are looking at any other ideas that are out there.

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Hunter: We have been awarded a total of 11 units in 2009, including those 11 units we have a total of 46 units town wide. There still is a major demand for this type of service. By village Turners Falls has 16 units, Montague Center 11 units, Lake Pleasant 5 units, Millers Falls 14 units. This is to bring houses up to code be utilized with zero interest, deferred payment loans for the most severely blighted owner occupied or multifamily properties in these areas. We are in the process of sending out letters to all the people who are on the waiting list saying if you are still interested, please fill out the application and we will then do a priority of all the applications.

Abbondanzio: There are changes in the works for how we are going to handle the social service component. We will be looking at putting out an RFP and will be having a public information hearing specifically for the social service program within the next couple of weeks.

Hunter: We will do our best to include all agencies that serve the population of Montague

Abbondanzio and Hunter goes over process of applying for the social service portion

Hunter: We hope to have more social service agencies apply, maybe not to the magnitude in the past, maybe more pilot programs, new programs that would spur a continuation by the agency with their own money if they are successful. These are the ideals of DHCD, that's what they love to see, to provide seed money for projects. DHCD did not mandate an RFP process, but strongly recommended it. They also made certain requirements of the Town that any social service agency that applies for the program, would have to meet one of the communities social service needs as established by the Town. The review committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Abbondanzio: Now that we have bid ready plans and specs for Unity Park, it would be nice to get some construction money for that project, at least the first stage of that.

Dobosz is looking forward to moving forward with the Design money

Hunter: The reason we started to process six weeks ago was to enable us to not lose six months. As you see they awarded late this year and we would not have been ready for any portion of construction on this project in next years application. The committee has worked all summer with the architect and worked last month to review applications and they have a recommendation to be made to the Parks & Rec on Monday night for their review and we hope to have everything ready for the selectmen for August 31st.

Hearing closed

Other

Allen: Apropos of the contract with the Town and Baystate Health Ambulance, I suspect we should send some information or message to the district that we should heard from them and if they are still talking about that potential.

Abbondanzio: Mr. Travis is aware of what has been going on, but I will talk to him.

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