

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

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Pruitt; Patricia Allen (absent), Mark Fairbrother, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz, Bill Drake, Montague Reporter,

**Approve minutes of September 28, 2009**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2009. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye,*

**Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk, Request a polling change for precinct 6**

Bourbeau: I'm here tonight because I would like you to consider moving Precinct 6. Right now they vote at the Masonic Lodge on Masonic Ave and since the new police station is completed and there is a large conference room that we could use, I'm interested in moving Precinct 6 polling place to the conference room. It totally conforms to the American with Disabilities Act and I think our voting residents would be better served if voting took place at the new Police Station. The Masonic Lodge has been wonderful to us providing the space to us, it's just time to move. We have had people come out from the Secretary of State's Office and they go to all our polling places and look them over to see how well they can serve the elderly and the handicap and the Masonic Lodge is one of our most critical polling places that we have ever had evaluated. Montague City, the "Patch", Greenfield Road, Randall Woods, Randall Road, a section of Turners Falls Road would be affected. I think it is a good time for us to do this, there is an election coming up on December 8<sup>th</sup>, so I could get all my ducks in a row.

Pruitt expresses her concern that people will not want to make the trek up there or people who don't have transportation having trouble getting there.

Bourbeau states there is really no other place in Montague City to use, she has looked into it. There is just so much against the elderly and handicap at the Masonic Lodge. (Bourbeau lists problem areas). There are no rules as to where a polling location has to be. Precinct 6 has been in the most need to make a move for a long time.

Fairbrother: My impression has been that recently there have been some changes in the Masonic Lodge merged with the one from Northfield, I kinda hate to move the polling place completely out of the precinct and up onto the hill.

Bourbeau states it will be the Town's responsibility to make improvements at the Masonic Lodge.

Pruitt expresses her concern about the loss of voters.

Bourbeau needs enough time to notify voters of the change.

Fairbrother would like this discussion continued in two weeks and if the public has any complaints to notify the town.

**Chris Janke, The Rendezvous, One Day Liquor license request**

*Fairbrother moves to grant a special license at the Rendezvous at 78 Third Street for the purpose of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MontagueMA.net website on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM pending approval by the police chief. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – aye, Pruitt - aye*

**Al Cummings, Trustees Memorial Committee, Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2009**

Cummings: Wants to bring back ceremony on Veteran's Day. Will start at 10:30 and be over by 11:30 AM. Cummings goes over the plans for the Veteran's Day Ceremony. There will not be a parade.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the request for registration for public demonstrations/use of public property to the trustees of the soldiers memorial committee for a Veterans Day Memorial Event from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM on November 11, 2009. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye*

**Montague Inn, Alan Martinbault**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the request for a special license at the Montague Inn c/o Alan Martinbault, 485 Federal Street, Montague for the purpose of an outdoor music festival on October 11, 2009 from*

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*3:00 PM – 7:00 PM pending approval of the Chief of Police. Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the request for a special entertainment license to ATM properties, d/b/a Montague Inn, 485 Federal Street, Montague for live vocalists, a band for one day on October 11, 2009 from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM pending signatures as required. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Town Administrators Report**

**Mass Highway Bridge Ratings**

Abbondanzio: We received a bridge rating list from the FRCOG. It is interesting to note some of the issues that we may be facing down the road in terms of the condition of some of the bridges we have. 18 bridges were rated in Montague, 12 are Town bridges, 6 are State Highway bridges. Out of the town agency bridges there are a number that are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The structurally deficient ones are the ones that are going to be needing repairs and we need to plan for this down the road. Tom and I need to get together to talk about this. Frank goes over structurally deficient bridges that stand out: bridges over Sawmill River, Center Street Bridge, South Street Bridge, Prospect Street Bridge (being worked on now), and North Leveret Road bridge over Sawmill River. Bridges that are functionally obsolete (structurally sound but no longer meet modern functionality): Eleventh Street bridge and Sixth Street bridge. The Greenfield Road bridge is gone and never coming back.

**CDBG Update, Human Service proposals**

Abbondanzio: Human service proposals were due Wednesday at 4:30 PM. We received 2 proposals. This is just the letter of intent stage, we still do not have any letters of interest from people that want to serve on committee that will be reviewing the Human Service Applications. We may appoint people in house to this committee.

**ESCO Update**

Abbondanzio: I attended a meeting the other night on the Energy Savings Performance Contracting. We had the preliminary audit done and following that audit, there were a number of meetings by the energy committee to determine where we wanted to go with it. I think we are at the point now where we need to sit down one more time and discuss the investment grade audit. It was recommended that we have a Town Meeting appropriation in place to cover the investment grade audit costs should the Town decide not to move forward with the work itself. Because one investment grade audit is done, we are on the hook to pay Siemens the cost of the audit. If we decide to move forward those costs are folded into the project. This meeting was with the FRCOG organized by Bob Deane. My feeling is we should be looking at USDA Community Facility Loan Program as our method for financing this.

**Gill Montague Bridge Update**

Abbondanzio: SPS New England won the bid for the Gill/Montague Bridge. I spoke with them about renting space in the police department and will be meeting with someone next week about that. I Spoke to Tom who had a meeting about the bridge and the bridge is going to be a 5 year project. The General Pierce bridge will be done first and will take about a year to complete. They are bending a little on the traffic circulation, they are going to allow 2 way traffic in and out of housing authority and the mill. There will be no trucks over 5 tons that will be allowed coming in from Greenfield, but they will allow smaller trucks. Provisions have been made for emergency vehicles.

**Announcements**

Health Department will be doing an informational session for swine flu, date to be set.

**State revenue shortfall**

September revenues were \$243M below projected shortfall. The Governor will be looking into 9C cuts. He can't cut local aid without legislation taking action. If they do what they did last year, the legislature will authorize those cuts. This year the State does not have reserves.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to go into executive session only to adjourn and go into regular session at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*