

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, February 22, 2010  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

**#06-10**

**#6**

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

**Approve minutes of February 8, 2010**

Minutes of February 8, 2010 not available

**Appoint Chair for meeting**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Pat Allen as Chair in Patricia Pruitt's absence. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye*

**Lisa Davol and Peter Hamelin, Block Party, Concerts in Peskeompskut Park and Collaboration with Powertown Music**

Hamelin: Moved here in October and I'm now on the Board of Directors of the Brickhouse. Through the Brickhouse, we've started a yet to be determined if it is going to be its own standing committee or company, but it is called Powertown Music and last Thursday we did a fundraiser at Burrito Rojo and we raised a lot of money for the Brickhouse. (Mission statement read into the record) We'd like to start employing our young adults that are coming to the Brickhouse and playing music in roles of booking different venues for music, working with Lisa and the Turners Falls RiverCulture on the block party and getting these kids interested in doing sound for concerts and marketing for the concerts, building websites for themselves and other musicians. It's a really exciting project and we've had a lot of kids signing up to get involved. Lisa and I have been talking on how we could build a music industry around here.

Allen: Catholic Social Ministries had a couple programs where people wrote songs and sang them and they got CD's after.

Hamelin: The Brickhouse has had a music program there for about 6 years with a recording studio and now you can see these kids that are 21, 22 are amazing musicians. Now there's this entity that can help them to take the next step where they can actually start to get paid for their music and start to tour and record their own CD's.

Davol: They are a perfect collaborator for the Block Party, they'll collaborate all of the music and help find bands and book them and go through the whole motion of how to set up a festival. The Block Party is August 14<sup>th</sup>, always the second Saturday in August. We were talking about having a concert series in Peske Park this summer and we are going to try and pick a day, we're thinking Wednesdays.

Allen: Everything is coming along well

Davol: The other thing is police coverage? I don't know if there is any community policing money?

Allen: Even less, it was cut more

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Town Clerk Announcement**

Abbondanzio: Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerks Office for the annual town election on May 17 2010, until Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and must be returned no later than Monday, March 29 at 5:00 PM. Seats are as follows: Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Assessor, Board of Health, Parks and Recreation and Tree Warden each for a three year term. Library Trustees has 3 seats each for a 3 year term; Montague Housing Authority has one seat for a 5 year term; Soldiers Memorial Trustees has a Veteran's seat for a 3 year term; Town Meeting Members for each precinct. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Nomination Papers for School Committee seats are provided by the Gill Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue.

**Announce Award of Energy Efficiency and Block Grant (EECBG Grants)**

Abbondanzio: We were awarded 2 grants from the State Dept. of Energy under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. We received \$150,000 for the replacement of the Boiler in Town Hall and we were awarded an additional Technical Assistance Grant that will be used to help in the administration and

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implementation of our Energy Procurement Contract. These are being awarded using stimulus money so it will have to be spent fairly quickly.

**Status of Investment Grade Audit**

This is still an ongoing thing. We are close to wrapping this up. The greatest savings under this program will be realized by lighting upgrades, conservation lighting and building envelope improvements, insulation and things like that. We chose not to do the DPW building which would have resulted in a lot of savings but it would have required us to be in the building for an awfully long time and we weren't committed to do that. Because DPW building is not part of the final contract we are looking at a project that is smaller than that initially. The project is about \$250,000 with a savings of about \$12,000 a year. There are small energy utility rebates that are being factored in here. If we hadn't gotten the \$150,000 grant for the boiler we would have looked at a simple payback of 21 years. The boiler makes it possible for us to shorten the pay back to about 10 years. That was the intent of that particular grant program to shorten the payback period on some of our energy projects. The overall project ends up paying off much sooner and as a result we start realizing savings in our budget much sooner. We have to get debt authorization to actually do the work. You pay for it up front. I'm looking into the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Community Facility Loan and Grant Program. The advantage of doing that program is there may be more grant money. If we are able to get a large enough grant, it might be possible to do the Police Station Solar. We also have the tax advantages that are offered under the CREBS program. That has already been approved for solar on the Police Building and for Town Hall. The Energy Committee will weigh in on this also

**Appointments to Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee**

I have a request from the FRCOG to update our Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and reconstitute the planning committee that was created for that purpose back in 2004 – 2005. It would make the most sense to have the same or equivalent people in the same positions that we had previously. Town Administrator and Superintendent of Public Works, Chief of Police, Supt. of TF Water Dept. and Chair of Montague Center Water Commission, Bob Escott, Emergency Management Director for Town, Ray Godin, TF Fire Chief and John Greene, MC Fire Chief, John Crouse, NE Utilities and Walter Ramsey, Acting Town Planning Assistant. (Frank will contact people to see if they are willing to be on this committee, then the appointments can be made)

**Update on WMECO Solar (at Landfill) Request for Sites**

We submitted a response to a request for sites for solar on the Montague Landfill cap to WMECO. There were looking to do 6 megawatts, 3 megawatts in 2010 and 3 in 2011/2012. They have already made one award of a site in Pittsfield for 2010 and they said there is still room for 1 or more projects in 2010. We had a site assessment done of the solar potential on our landfill cap by NEXAMP (a consultant hired by the FCSWMD). Our site was shown to have the capability of 670 KW. I would like the Board to consider allowing NEXAMP to do an additional evaluation of our burn dump because that has more potential due to 7 acres that are flat. WMECO is not ruling out the possibility of doing something on the Montague Plains.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to authorize and instruct Frank to contact the appropriate parties and try and move forward with a study on the burn dump. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Schedule Special Town Meeting for April 1, 2010**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to set the Special Town Meeting for April 1, 2010 at the Turners Falls High School at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye*

**Update on Montague Center School Reuse Project**

The main points coming out of that meeting were that we were going to issue an RFP on April 15 for the Reuse of the Montague Center School and we would have a due date on July 15. One of the points that was brought up at the meeting the other night was that there is a possibility that the school could be appropriate for a Horace Mann Charter School, that remains to be seen. There is a lot of feasibility work that needs to be done in terms of the financial side of that. I think the Superintendent and the School Committee were open to at least consider that. In this case, they would end up being a respondent to our request for proposals.

Allen: The RFP would not preclude that possibility because that was one of the four possible uses of the space anyhow.

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**Other**

- Collective Bargaining meetings scheduled for : March 10 Police at 2:00 PM, TOMEA at 4:00 PM; March 17 – UE at 3:30 PM

- MMA Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for March 5, at the Public Safety Facility

- Rosenberg Municipal Conference, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Conference Center

- G/M Bridge Project Public Meeting, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Great Falls Discovery Center at 2:00 PM

- Received a call from Mass. Dept. of Transportation in Northampton notifying us that the Fifth Street Bridge over the Canal is going to be posted. There are significant issues on how that is going to impact the traffic management plan that has been adopted in conjunction with the Gill/Montague Bridge Project. Five axel trucks limit is going to be lowered to 16 tons, 3 axel – 13 ton limit, 2 axel – 12 tons. This is because they inspected the Fifth Street bridge and it's an issue with the gusset plates again and related to what happened in Minneapolis and the requirements that stem from that whole incident. It is going to impact our traffic plan in some way. It would seem that the only way big trucks could leave town would be through Millers Falls or Rt. 63. The bigger problem is getting trucks in and out of Southworth, I am working with them.

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