

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, March 1, 2010  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

#07-10

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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; Bill Drake, Montague Reporter; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; Jeff Tirrell, WHAI

Minutes not available at this time

**Town Administrators Report  
Status of Gill-Montague Bridge Project**

This is an update for the people that were not able to attend the meeting last Friday.

- We are looking at a \$46,000,000 contract.
- Steve Kulik and Senator Rosenberg's aide, Mary Jane Bacon were at the meeting as well as people from Mass. Highway, many people from the business community.
- The project will begin at General Pierce bridge shortly –last 3 months and completed sometime in June. Then G/M bridge work will start towards end of June, some work will be done on the underneath portion prior to June, but it will not impact use of the bridge at all.
- Work will be done in 2 phases each 1-1/2 years long.
- There will be one way traffic coming in from Route 2. There was extensive discussion regarding 2 way traffic; I thought Mass. Highway made a convincing argument that unfortunately that will not be possible mainly because of the narrow width of the bridge and the length of the bridge. They did a simulation showing what would happen if they tried to have 2 way traffic, basically it would result in grid lock due to time required to clear bridge.
- I think the business community was hoping that would be an alternative that would work. For obvious reasons, I think they feel any change in the pattern of traffic could be detrimental to downtown.
- We were pleased to hear that the Southworth Mfg. problem with the 5<sup>th</sup> St. bridge over the canal being posted is being taken care of. Mass DOT is going to allow Southworth 2 way traffic over Turners Falls Road via Greenfield going over the hill. This is not the best solution but is workable. Signs will be put up to assist people finding their way out of Town.

**Notice of State of Emergency Declared on February 24, 2010**

I Spoke to Board members about declaring a state of emergency on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This was declared at 1:30 in the afternoon and ended at 8:30 PM. Originally, it was thought that a large part of the Town was going to be without power overnight. As it turned out WMECO was able to address problems a lot sooner than they thought so we ended the state of emergency earlier. Everyone felt it was good practice, including the Red Cross for a larger event. Today I participated in a conference call with MEMA and FEMA and there might be some emergency money available for the most recent event. They are trying to aggregate the damage that occurred over a period of a few days when the storm was an ongoing event. The threshold they have to meet is \$8.2 Million for the entire state, we are all being asked to submit our information by Wednesday. It's possible some of the expenses for the storms might be able to be recovered.

**US Census Announcement – temporary employment**

I've been asked to make an announcement about census jobs. Abbondanzio reads notice into the record. There are approximately 40 jobs available for a few months.

**FRCOG Special Council Meeting – March 11**

Meeting at the Greenfield High School on March 11 at 7:00 PM

**FRCOG Regionalization and Municipal Cost Sharing Conference – March 18**

Meeting to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Grille

**Read and Adopt Joint Proclamation for Local Emergency Planning Committee**

Fairbrother reads Joint Proclamation for Local Emergency Planning Committee into the record.

*Allen makes the motion to adopt the Joint Proclamation for the Local Emergency Planning Committee for not more than 25 years. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

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**Set Board of Selectmen Hearing on Stretch Code Adoption**

*Allen makes the motion to have a hearing for adoption of the Stretch Code on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM at the Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**Other**

- Letter from Connecticut River Internists for the first annual "Bruce's Run/Walk for Hospice" on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Use of Public Property form will be sent to them to fill out.

- Letter from Town of Gill announcing members appointed to review the Gill/Montague Regional School District Agreement, members are Dorothy Myers Storrow, Sorrel Hatch and Alan Tupper Brown. Letter read into the record.

-Discussion about Regional Planning Committee and the need for members

- Allen congratulates Greenfield Savings Bank for opening their new branch today

-We were notified on Thursday that Montague received the Common Cause award

*Allen makes the motion to go into executive session at 7:30 PM and only coming out to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*