

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, April 26, 2010  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

**13**

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; David Detmold, Montague Reporter; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; Jeff Tirrell, WHAI

**Approve Minutes of April 12, 2010**

Minutes of April 12, 2010 not available

**Liquor License Hearing, Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Seasonal All Alcohol Liquor License (Restaurant)**

Allen reads Public Hearing notice into the record

*Allen makes the motion to grant and send on to ABCC the request for a new seasonal license for the Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Raymond Larochelle as manager at 15 Depot Rd., Turners Falls, All Alcohol, Restaurant. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**Donald Clegg, Use of Public Property: Great Falls Farmers Market corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Avenue A**

*Allen makes the motion to grant the use of public property which would be for the Great Falls Farmers Market on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls on Wednesdays from May 5<sup>th</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 PM to 6:30 PM, noting the time for vendors to be available will be 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM for your weekly Farmers Market; the police chief signed the document. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to grant the use of public property at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street for the Great Falls Farmers Market on 3 Sundays this summer, June 13, July 18, August 22, from 11:30 AM set up to 4:30 PM breakdown, noting the time for vendors to be available will be 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM; the police chief signed the document. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**Robin Paris, Patricia Friedman, Shea Theater, Inc., Use of Peskeompskut Park on July 10, 2010**

Paris: This is a benefit to raise money for the Shea. The money we hope to raise is money that we are going to use to under write some of the performances for young people, since a great deal of funding has been cut from school budgets and we like to see some of the programs that were attended in the past to be continued to be attended. There are also other places the money will be used. We are inviting craft vendors to draw people, hoping to get 500 people to come through during the day, bike swap/sell, book sale, circus from Brattleboro, bands, plant sale, food, beer. Asking the Town to block off parking spaces on Sixth St. and 3 on Avenue A for their loading zone. Programming at the Shea has been very diverse, Shakespeare company from England will be performing again this year. Valley Idol is the next thing that is coming. We are looking for new members on the Board.

*Allen makes the motion to grant the use of Peskeompskut Park on July 10, 2010 from 7:00 AM until 11:00 PM for the Peskeompskut Park Music and Arts Festival whose hours will officially be 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM, under the auspices of the Shea Theater, Inc. and will provide copy of current liability insurance. They would like 3 spaces on Avenue A and 6 on Sixth Street for loading and use of the event. They will also need the key for electrical use and they will be having a beer garden. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**Lisa Davol, Turners Falls RiverCulture, Water Under the Bridge Festival (and Peter Hamlin)**

Peter Hamlin: The event will be held on the evening of Friday, June 11 and the day of Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Right now we have at least 12 different businesses and venues around town that have agreed to participate in the event. There will be a schedule of events, so people can move around town and go from one event to another.

Was wondering if each business needed a permit or if they could take out a blanket permit (some establishments already have entertainment permits).

L. Davol will apply for a blanket permit

Davol asks about a Wednesday night series in the park and inquires if they could have a beer tent at the event every week. Davol will speak to the Shea representatives to see what is involved with a liquor liability license

Hamlin will be back before the Board once everything is finalized.

### **Town Administrators Report**

#### **Way Finding Sign Proposal (Walter Ramsey, Town Planner, Chris Janke, MBA)**

Walter Ramsey: A couple of weeks ago Mass Highway agreed to work with the Town to develop a type of signage system, a kind of mitigation for anticipated economic effects of the bridge reconstruction. They gave the town a couple of weeks to come up with a preliminary plan, and this is that product. Unfortunately the time frame was so quick that we couldn't distribute the plan widely and get a wide amount of input. The plan comes from the Montague Business Association as well as myself as Town Planner.

Janke: I think this kind of proposal usually takes a year or so to develop and we took 2 weeks. We hope Mass. Highway understands it is a draft for discussion and we want input. We had as many meetings as we could in a short amount of time to try and go through a very long list of what needed to be on the sign, then there was the real reality of physical space on the Avenue so a lot got paired down. Some signs included temporary signage to help people get out of town while they can't cross the G/M Bridge to go north. So helping people find their way to Rt. 91 north or south.

Ramsey: They didn't give us many limits, they gave us a clean slate and this is the plan we came up with. A total of 12 signs, three different types, 2 signs on Rte. 2 to direct people into Turners Falls and there is room for interchangeable signs. I sent this to them last week and I'm waiting to hear back from them early this week. We will be setting up a meeting with them soon and hopefully the Selectboard will be represented there. We are asking for the best in construction materials, steel rails on the posts and sign material will be wooden headers and in some places it would be aluminum.

Janke: We tried to put the signs in places that made sense, without burdening too many street corners, highlighting the parts of downtown that makes sense.

Ramsey hopes to hear soon about the signs.

### **Notice**

Notice read regarding 2010 Fire District and Real Estate taxes are due Monday, May 3

### **Dept. of Energy Resources Letter Announcing Montague's Owner/Agent Technical Assistant**

Abbondanzio: I mentioned a couple of months ago, that when we got the \$150,000 grant for the replacement of the boiler in town hall, they were also going to give us a technical assistant grant to pay for an owners agent. We just received notice last week that Beth Greenblat is going to be that person and I've initiated contact with her. The grant is for \$25,000 and entitles us (according to Beth) about 135 – 145 hours of work. She has given me a list of the types of activities she can typically help out with and we have to sit down and decide where we want to spend our hours. I will run this by the Energy Committee and get their feedback. We are meeting with the energy committee tomorrow, and moving along with the performance contract that was authorized at the Town Meeting. We still have some issues to work out and we have a project that is not entirely finalized at this moment and Beth is going to try and help us tie the loose ends together.

### **Town Planner and Conservation Agent Search**

Coming into May and we talked about trying to fill the position by the end of May early June. Ad has been placed in Mass Mutual Beacon to be published on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Resumes will be due by May 20<sup>th</sup>, the salary is competitive and the Town has a range in mind, where we set position depends upon experience. I'd like to get a search committee together. Will also advertise in the newspaper and on the website.

John Hanold expresses his concern about filling a vacant position in times of economic uncertainty, that we not over reach on a job. Although it is important for the town, it is not equivalent to some of the essential services for which a high level of certified training, such as Building Inspection, Assessor, Police Officer and positions like this. I'm coming in in-part as a member of the Finance Committee as we approach a budget balancing effort for the next fiscal year, that we be cautious in evaluating candidates and the expectations we have compared with the other important needs of the Town. I know it is early with issues of compensation, but I think it is not too early to have that idea planted in the minds of the Selectboard when they make the final decision as well as the search committee that will be evaluating resumes. We should pay attention to the level of experience that is mandatory versus what is simply desirable.

### **Montague Center School RFP**

The Montague Center School RFP will be put out on May 5<sup>th</sup> and will be in Central Register and on the website. This will be due August 5<sup>th</sup>. Frank to add Educational uses to be allowed in all zones

### **Approve Selectmen's Annual Report**

Changes submitted to Wendy

### **Energy Task Force Update**

This meeting scheduled for Tuesday. The school is open to making amendments to the School lease outside of the Regional Agreement that would allow us to work something out so we could do work on the town owned school buildings. The way it was explained to us at a meeting was they would set the assessment as they always would for both Gill and Montague. Then if there was a payment of the guaranteed savings that was going to be used to pay the debt service on the performance contract, they would subtract that from the fourth quarter assessment of the individual town. There are ways of doing it, we're trying to work out the mechanics of it. It looks as if the State is open to the idea of being flexible on this. That would have to be done as a second phase because the investment grade audit was not done and did not include the elementary school buildings. It did have a preliminary audit done, but I think they felt because it wasn't possible legally for them to enter into a contract as a district for a Town owned building, it wasn't going to work out, because we weren't convinced that it was going to work out for us. It looks like it may be possible

### **Other**

Sunday was fundraiser for the Gill/Montague Educational Fund and the Aquastring band from Philadelphia was at the High School. It was a very successful event. Pruitt acknowledges that Joyce Phillips has done a great job raising money for the Educational Fund.

*Allen makes the motion to seek an up to date list for a Full Time Police Officer from civil service. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

Pruitt: Received call from someone in Lake Pleasant that the DPW has not yet swept the sand off the streets in Lake Pleasant, and was wondering when this will happen. Also the kids playground hasn't been cleaned up yet, it still has the fall leaves and looks pretty bad.

Pruitt announces this is her last meeting on the Selectboard and is grateful to have been elected to serve on the board for the past two terms and has great admiration for all that she has served with. Wonderful things have happened over the past 6 years and she will miss it.

The other Selectmen stated their appreciation for the care and interest Patricia has given to the many issues she was involved in for six years, noting in particular her attention to an individuals needs in any given situation. Patricia will be missed.

The Conservation Committee than came forward and Fairbrother noted this is a Special Conservation Commission meeting for Monday, April 26, 2010.

*Picking makes the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of litigation. Seconded by Addie Holland, approved unanimously. Deb Picking – Aye, Addie Holland – Aye, Donna Francis – Aye, Sean Werle – Aye, Mark Fairbrother – Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to go into two executive sessions at 8:15 PM, first one for the purpose of litigation and the second one for real estate and only come 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 8:43 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*