

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, June 14, 2010  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
AGENDA**

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*Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Allen, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell; Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz; Bill Drake, Montague Reporter; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI*

**Approve Minutes of May 24 and June 1, 2001**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of May 24, and June 1, 2010 with correction. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye*

**Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director  
Volunteer Service Award**

Dobosz: We value the people that step forward and help us out a lot. This years award is given to Paul Socquet who has helped us out for many years, he is great with the kids, is very patient and he is just a super guy. The Montague Parks & Recreation Department wants to present this volunteer service award to Paul in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the MPRD and the youth of Montague.

Socquet thanks everyone and he did it for the kids.

**Summer Programs**

Dobosz goes over programs being offered this summer. See Parks & Recreation summer program handout and/or the Towns website.

**Mark Cannon, LaBodega – The Latino Connection**

Allen: You had a couple of issues you brought up the last time we met. Allen read her statement into the record

Cannon says he appreciates how Allen came to check on all the business.

Cannon: I showed David Jensen the space we were using and he said we were not using public property.

Cannon goes over his plans for his one year anniversary celebration, everything is going to be like his past events.

Discussion about constant music that is being played at LaBodega. Mr. Canon says he will be more considerate about turning his speaker.

Discussion about placement of grill, Chief Godin signing off on grill usage, taxes being paid, abutters to be notified, speakers that are going to be used during the event.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to issue an Entertainment License to Mark Canon, owner of La Bodega at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls for Sunday July 11, 2010 from 11 AM to 3 PM contingent upon securing a Board of Health Permit and payment of back real estate taxes on that property, notification of abutters that this event will be happening and checking once with the decibel meter. Seconded by Boutwell. Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye, Fairbrother -Nay.*

**Tammy Berard& Ed Tolzdorf, Millers Pub, Use of Public Property on 6/26/10**

Chris Boutwell recues himself from this discussion

*Fairbrother makes the motion that the board grant a permit for use of public property (East Main Street) in Millers Falls to Tammy Berard of the Millers Pub for June 26, 2010 from 2 PM to 4 PM, during which time E. Main Street will be used for parking and closed to traffic. The police chief has signed off on this and the Highway Dept. will loan them some barriers. Seconded by Allen, approved. Fairbrother, Aye, Allen – Aye.*

**Other**

Water Under the Bridge event was successful despite the weather

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**Town Administrators Report**

**Set up date for Reserve Officer Interviews**

This has been set up for 4:00 PM on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and interviews will be held every 20 minutes. Resumes will be due in prior to this date. Ray will touch base with Wendy on this.

**Dispatch Hours**

Zukowski: I had a conversation today with my head dispatcher and our reserve of per diem dispatchers is dwindling, so we would like to hire 2 – 3 more in the near future. It was evident that the people we have were not available when Marsha was out on maternity leave.

Selectmen gave him the okay to move ahead with this.

**Appoint Town Planner**

I would like to announce to the board that the selection committee completed interviews on June 10<sup>th</sup> and they unanimously chose Walter Ramsey as the Planning and Conservation Agent and would like him placed on the classification schedule at grade 9, step 2, salary of \$45,566.22 in recognition of the experience he has here working for the Town the last 5 months, effective today, June 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to commend Walter for the work he has done to date. Everyone that has had the chance to work with Walter was very impressed in particular by his work ethics, he set a plan of what he was going to get done during that interim period, working part time, finishing up his thesis, doing his course work at UMASS and he still managed to get everything done on his plan and came into the interview with a five year action plan that he also promised to get done.

Ramsey: I'm glad to be on board, it is a big relief, it's been great working here the last 5 months, it is a great fit.

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Walter Ramsey as our new Town Planner with the recommendation of Grade 9, Step 2 at \$45,566.22 effective as of today, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Allen for discussion:

Fairbrother: this is wrong, absolutely wrong and I believe the Select board which includes myself, is being deficient in our duties and our responsibilities.

Allen: For not being involved in interviews?

Fairbrother: Yes. If I remember correctly, and Walter, absolutely nothing personal to you, the first time we worked together that I can recall was on the Planner Selection Committee that actually chose Robin Sherman. As I recall, we chose from a pool of 5 candidates, who we interviewed and we recommended 2 to the Select board which then held their own interviews in public sessions, then in the end chose Robin Sherman. That is how it should have been done, and I will not support this because this is wrong, we should have done it that way.

Allen: I had a feeling things had changed in the last 11 years, because I felt also that we used to interview people.

Abbondanzio: I don't think so. In the case when you hired me, it was referred to the Select board but any of the other professional positions were posed as a recommendation to the Board. I don't think the Selectmen actually participated, but I may be wrong.

Fairbrother: They did with Robin, there is no argument on that, they did. At this time I would be voting to approve their recommendation and while I have great respect for the search committee and Walter, this is not how it should be. I'm being asked to vote to approve this selection, I have no idea who the other candidates were, what their qualifications were, who was considered, nothing, I know nothing else about this. That is wrong.

Allen: So how would we address that? Call the three finalists in for interviews with the Select board?

Fairbrother: My thought was plain reopen the search, re-advertise it and let everyone who participated resubmit, just do it over again.

Allen: We don't need to do that, because you do come down to that's all done and the finalists are interviewed.

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Boutwell: When the committee was originally formed, this must have been presented through a Select board meeting that it was going to be done this way, I would presume?

Allen: I thought we said we would get to see people.

Fairbrother: It was left in a nebulous condition, the selection process that is where we were wrong, we should have said no, put it in concrete terms, this is the selection process. I suppose I saw the train wreck coming anyways but when I picked up my packet and saw appoint Town Planner instead of interview finalist, appoint Town Planner, I said my year of keeping my mouth shut ends, because this is wrong.

Allen: I think you have a very good point.

Fairbrother: Any other hiring's of this nature; this is how it has to be. (Allen agrees). I have had excellent interactions with Walter as Chair of the ConCom, so he is not without support from me. I'm reluctantly willing to sit here and not say anything if he is appointed as the one, and we just go on from here, but for future personnel purposes, let it be on record I am going to insist on a spelled out process that is far more conclusive than this one was.

Boutwell: I was not here, so I was not part of the committee and I'm not sure who any of the applicants were I'm just going by the recommendation that came down from the committee.

Allen: I think in this case I'm comfortable with the choice, partially because I did talk to Frank earlier about who the other candidates were and why the recommendation was not for them. I'm willing to go ahead with a vote tonight. I think we should go back to having the final say.

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Walter Ramsey as our new Town Planner with the recommendation of Grade 9, Step 2 at \$45,566.22 effective as of today, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Allen, Approved. Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Abstained*

Allen: In the future the Select board should interview Department Heads prior to their being appointed.

**Appointment to Montague Energy Committee**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the resignations of David Detmold and Paul Voiland from the Montague Energy Committee, with thanks for their service to the committee and the Town as described in the letter from Chris Mason dated June 9, 2010. Seconded by Boutwell approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Cameron Weimar to the Montague Energy Committee for the term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to create two non-voting associate positions for the Montague Energy Commission. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint David Detmold to one of the associate positions for the Montague Energy Commission. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**FY11 MOU for Sludge Hauling and Disposal**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between the Town of Montague and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for FY11 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) for the hauling and disposal of sludge from the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility under terms and conditions spelled out in the memorandum. Specific costs are: transportation- \$0.0309 per gallon, Disposal- \$297 per dry ton, Disposal- \$85.60 per wet ton, Demurrage fee- \$75 per hour. Seconded by Allen, approved. Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**FY11 MOU for Hauling Services**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between the Town of Montague and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for FY11 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) for the hauling of*

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*recyclables, hauling and disposal of solid waste, hauling and disposal of bulky wastes, and hauling and disposal of scrap metal and appliances under terms and conditions spelled out in the memorandum. Specific costs are: Recycling- 193 per haul +\$8, \$188 per box tandem haul +\$8, Bulky Waste- \$222 per haul +\$10, \$200 per box tandem haul +\$12, \$82 per ton +\$1, \$55 per month per roll off rental +\$0, and \$40 per mattress +\$5. The annual cost for Recycling Roll off Replacement: \$1,608. Seconded by Allen, approved. Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*

**Program Income Hearing**

*Boutwell makes the motion to place \$25,000 from the Program Income Account into the Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye*

**Sign Colle Lease**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the lease presented between the Town of Montague and the Northeast Foundation for Children Inc., for premises consisting of the following: approximately 7,497 square feet in the first, second and third floors and the basement in the building known as the Colle Building located at 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, described in Appendix A as spaces #110, #203, #208, #209, #303, #308 and #309, along with common access to six bathrooms, and access by stairway and elevator. In addition, the Leased Premises shall include the nonexclusive right of the Foundation, its employees, agents and customers to park in the 40 spaces in the Colle Parking Lot during the hours of 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM on business days. The term of the lease will be one 3-year period from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2013 with two 3-year renewal options. Rent for year #1 will be a combined \$6,895.60 monthly, for year #2 \$6,895.60 monthly, year #3 \$7,053.40 monthly. Other terms and conditions as specified in the lease. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**CDBG Grant**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign a notice to proceed to Siemens Industries for the purchase and installation of the boiler for the Town Hall. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**Use of Peskeompskut Park**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a permit for use of Peskeompskut Park, specifically the band shell and grounds in front of it to Michelle Lowell of Mormon Hollow Road in Millers Falls for a wedding. The event will be June 19, 2010 from 3:00 PM through 5:30 PM, set up and break down inclusive. Ms Lowell has provided a signed release, and Police Chief Raymond Zukowski has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**Other**

*Abbondanzio: FY11 CDBG Application is on the fast track and we've solicited input from residents on the activities the town should include in the application. There is going to be an RFP process for social services with the RFP being due in on August 1. The application, activity and funding request must be completed by October and the public hearing must be held in November with applications due in December*

**Vote to Sign Yearly Appointments**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to sign the yearly appointments for Town Employees, Boards and Committees for the following year. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye*

*Fairbrother makes a motion to go into executive session for the purpose #3, discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*