

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Monday, September 13, 2010**  
**UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

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

Minutes of August, 30 and September 7, 2010 not available

**Town of Gill, Gill Board of Selectmen, (present: Ann Banash, Chair; Randy Crochier, John Ward; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant**

**Joint appointment of a moderator for the GMRS District Wide Meeting on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Gill Board of Selectmen call meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Meeting is being videotaped and recorded

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Ray Godin as Moderator for the upcoming GMRSD Meeting on November 18th. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Banash makes the motion to appoint Ray Godin as Moderator for the GMRSD meeting on November 18, 2010. Seconded by Crochier, approved unanimously. Crochier – Aye, Ward – Aye, Banash - Aye*

Discussion about the use of paper ballots being used at the District Meeting. There is a consensus that paper ballots (enough for 5) be used and Ray will be told about this. Frank to notify Ray Godin.

**Discuss issues related to the G/M Bridge reconstruction project, and/or desire to hold a forum with Mass DOT, Town and SPS representatives**

W. Ramsey sent out a notice regarding a meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of Town Hall (Montague)

Issues on R. Purington's list building onto to the suggested agenda that Walter put together:

- Snow removal on the sidewalk,
- Rt. 116 Bridge between Deerfield and Sunderland, neither town pays for street lights, this bridge however, both Towns pay for lights on bridge. Thinks we should ask Mass. Highway how we get the same type of lights like the 116 bridge
- Wrong way traffic during 3:00 AM fire, whether signage is adequate. Need clearer signs to wait for delay red.
- While Mass Highway there, start broaching topic possibly having a pedestrian crossing of getting from lawn at Gill Mobil over to the sidewalk on the bridge
- Have some type of traffic device so Gill units coming down Main Road would have a way of operating lights from Gills end.
- Some kind of skim coat on bridge before snow comes. Also question of how bridge will be plowed and where will the snow go?

Allen would like an update on the Canal Bridge at this meeting

Ward: Road surface on bridge has been rough for years and they still managed to do snow removal; This is a State bridge and they will be plowing the snow onto your side. Montague will have to do more as far as snow removal.

**Budget**

Allen: Thinks we should hear what the school says they are planning on doing with the stimulus money they have received.

Ward: Thinks for recommendations of the school committee we should hear what the school committee says, rather than second hand information here, but if you have something you want to recommend to the school committee and give us an indication of what it is, the extra time to think that over wouldn't hurt us.

Allen thinks assessment should be reduced. Would hate to see them add a bunch of positions that we can't afford later and to add the amount to the base. This is one time money.

Banash: The other suggestion is to use the one time money for one time projects.

Abbondanzio: The money has to be for wages, salaries or benefits. In case of benefits, the Superintendent was looking at writing down the cost of the health insurance and that would be how you would reduce the assessment. If you used it for

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wages and salaries, you have to pay 9% retirement costs. Assessment sheets were generated assuming they were going to be used to reduce health insurance and in turn reduce assessments. This is my preferred option, because I think we are looking at a \$2 million deficit at the state level in 2012 and Jeff's concept of a soft landing is a good way of putting it, because we don't have the reserves to plug in at that point and we would be using an additional \$2??,000 in reserves that we could save this year.

Gill is not in the same boat as Montague. Banash stated they know next year is going to be bad, so whatever Gill was to save this year if the assessment was to be lowered, they have talked about putting it towards next year as part of the budget, it would help tremendously if the assessments are reduced.

Abbondanzio: Both the Towns and the Schools are going to see cuts on their state aid. We need to be prepared for that; In our case we would end up using half of our town reserves or stabilization if we finance the assessment as it is right now.

*Banash makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. Seconded by Crochier. Approved unanimously. Banash – Aye, Ward – Aye, Crochier - Aye*

**Montague/Erving Wastewater Service Agreement, Paul Gilbert, Camp Dresser & McKee**

Gilbert: Here to seek approval on the agreement between CDM and the Town of Montague to provide you services in reference to Erving. We've outlined four tasks, and have proactively started on some of these all ready. The agreement is two part, the same as we've had with you for the past 6 years with the CSO and Upgrade. It was suggested we make a clean agreement since the previous stuff we have worked on was funded by the DEP and RDA. It is a typical agreement and the essence of it is in exhibit A (see Exhibit A to Agreement Between Owner and Engineer (Study Report) Montague/Erving Wastewater Service Agreement – Review, Evaluation, Support and Recommendation). There are 4 Tasks listed: 1) Review Agreement; 2) Review construction efforts at the Erving Plant; 3) Review preliminary plans done 8 to 9 years ago to possibly redirect the flow into the Montague System. 4) Support Town in meetings with Erving and legal folks. Rich Bowen has reviewed document and approved with minor changes.

Board will review this agreement as they are just receiving it and vote next week.

**Preliminary Sewer Rate Discussion**

Abbondanzio: This is just a preliminary discussion of setting the Sewer Rates. This assumes that there isn't any use of the sewer retained earnings; under this circumstance the rate would increase by 3.3% which is the worst case scenario. Based on the average use of 66,000 gallons per year an average user can expect to see an increase of about \$13.00 over last year's rates, assuming the 3.3% number without the use of any retained earnings. Compared to the state wide average, the average bill in the state in 2008 was \$584, under the scenario we are presenting tonight ours would be \$396, we are considerably below the state average. Fortunately, we currently have a healthy balance in our sewer retained earnings account; the balance is \$250,045 and this was approved by the State DOR. (See memo dated September 9, 2010 regarding FY2011 Sewer Rates). Bob Trombley is considering recommending the use of \$40,000 to stabilize the rates at their FY10 level. Southworth called and will be at the rate hearing with a different proposal. I would caution the Board, and this is early in the process to not use more of the Sewer Retained Earnings because FY2012 we will be paying down the fourth USDA loan and that is a \$950,000 loan of which the sewer users will be responsible for paying 60%. We also have the uncertainty out there because of the Erving situation in terms of whether we have to pay additional funds to the Town of Erving or Sewer.

**Town Administrators Report**

**Request by Water Dept. to add Hannergan Brook Well Zone II Delineation map to the Zoning By-Laws Section 9, Water Supply Protection District**

Abbondanzio: This is a request by the Water Dept. to expand the water supply protection district to include the Hannergan Brook Well Zone II District. This is a zoning change that by law has to be initiated by the Board of Selectmen and referred to the Planning Board. Walter has been working on preparing an analysis of this proposal. The Water Dept. is looking for a quick resolution on this, because DEP would like to see this aquifer protected. A public hearing has to be scheduled on this and the Planning Board has issues they would like to have analyzed before they schedule the hearing.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to refer the request from the Turners Falls Water Dept. to add Hannergan Brook Well Zone II Delineation map to the Zoning By-Laws Section 9, Water Supply Protection District to the Planning Board. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye.*

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**DCR Connecticut River Greenway Acquisitions (2)**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to waive the reduction of the 120 day notice period for Andrew Carson's property 70± acres for the DCR. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to waive the reduction of the 120 day notice period for David Gendron's property 35± acres for the DCR. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**Request by Mayhew Steel to apply for Mass. Economic Development Program in Montague**

Abbondanzio: Mayhew Steel is looking to expand at our Industrial Park, proposing to construct a 33,600 sq. ft. facility, a \$2.1 million investment, of this; \$1.8 million will be in form of the tax exempt industrial development bond from the Mass. Development Finance Agency. They will be adding 5 new jobs and consolidating the jobs at the Turners Falls location. They will be submitting an application under the Economic Development Incentive Program and will be looking for some form of tax increment financing. This will have to go before Town Meeting for final approval. This will be taken to the Fiscal advisory committee to review the project to see what level of exemption is appropriate. Today I received by e-mail request for the Board to sign a waiver stating we are relinquishing our authority to issue an industrial development bond at the local level and allowing the state to do that through the Mass. Development Financing because the town has a local industrial financing authority in place. (This will be signed next week)

**Michael Currie, TF Fire Dept., Local 2452, Boot drive at Intersection of Avenue A and Third St.**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to grant and waive fees for a permit for assembly, public demonstration and use of public property, that being a section of Third Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls, to Michael Currie of the Turners Falls Dept., Local 2452, Turnpike Road, Turners Falls for September 18, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM for the purpose of holding a boot fundraiser for MDA; Police Chief has signed off on the event and an Insurance waiver will be forthcoming. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

**Use of Public Property, Booster Day Parade**

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the permit and waive the fees for public demonstration, parade and use of public demonstration Unity Park, Avenue A, Seventh Street, part of L Street, Montague Street and Turnpike Road to Shawn Ashworth on behalf of the Turners Falls High School Student Council for the Booster Day parade from Unity Park to the G/M Regional High School via the route specified above on October 23, 2010 with the participants to assemble at 10:15 AM, parade beginning at 11:15 AM and extend to approximately 1:00 PM. Police Chief Raymond Zukowski has signed off on the form. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Insurance form needed and this will be revoked next week.

**Use of Public Property, Flag Donating Ceremony**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a permit for assembly, public demonstration, use of public property, being Veterans Memorial Park to Albert Cummings, Chair of the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial for September 25, 2010 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM for the purpose of a flag donating ceremony at the memorial, Chief Zukowski has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, (discloses he is on this committee also), approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye*

**Lisa Davol and Craig Colorusso, Public Art Installation – Sun Boxes**

Davol: Craig was winner of our producers grant. We're hoping to have the installation the first 3 weeks in November, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM to sundown (approx. 4:30 pm); they will be taken in at night and brought out again in the morning. We thought it tied in really well with the Energy Committee, being a green community, it is just an interesting installation.

Colorusso: Basically, it is 20 speakers that all play a single guitar note and the whole thing makes a flowing guitar cord that people walk through and is powered by the sun. It is an environment people can walk into and out of, very soothing. People are going to experience this differently from one another. The three spots we were hoping to have are at the beginning of the bike path, lawn of the Discovery Center and Peskeompskut Park. We are using 3 different sights because they sound different in different environments. We wanted to get the concept agreed to before submitting the paperwork.

Confluence art show is on October 1, it is Franklin County artist all contemplating the theme of confluence and where we live. This is the first county wide theme we have worked on. There will be Friday night events each Friday in October, with the opening on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**Ellen Spring, Skate Board Park Committee, Entertainment permit and Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration or Use of Public Property Application, Ellen Spring and Bryan Dolan**

Spring: Would like to have a post block party contest. Bryan has built some new structures for the park and we've collected some prizes, we have a volunteer band and a beginner competition at 3:00 pm and an advanced skaters competition at 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Skate Park.

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant and waive fees for a permit for assembly, public demonstration and use of public property the Skate Park at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls to Ellen Spring of Third Street in Turners Falls, on behalf of the Skate Board Park Committee for September 18, 2010 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM for the purpose of holding a skateboard contest, Chief Zukowski has signed off on the event and all participants will provide signed waivers. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant and waive fees for a one day entertainment license to Ellen Spring on behalf of the Skate Park committee for Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Skate Park area at the corner of Eleventh Street and Avenue A; activities will include a skate board contest with music. The Towns health agent, police chief and fire chief have signed off on the request. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

On Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in this same room there will be public meeting to discuss the final design with preliminary cost estimates of a concrete skate park.

**Update on Boiler**

Abbondanzio: Beth Greenblat, Consultant from Beacon Integrated Systems has been in negotiations with Siemens. There was a lot of early numbers that were put forward that are getting adjusted and she is protecting our interests. The downside is that there is going to be a delay in getting the boiler installed, we are looking at a December installation at the earliest. We are going to operate using some of the oil that we pledged to purchase from Sandri under the prior year's oil purchase that we didn't take. The gas line is installed and Berkshire Gas has been contacted and there will not be a problem with them. Greenblat felt that with the long term monitoring requirements, compliance, how you calculate savings and everything else, there was a lot of things that would not have been in the Town's favor had some of these changes not taken place. Unfortunately, this is something that has been affecting a lot of the other ESCO projects that Siemens is working on throughout the counties. We are close to a resolution and close to getting an agreement. Siemens would not move ahead and order the boiler until they had a contract. We can't have a contract until our consultant feels that it is a contract that is protecting the Towns interests in the long term.

Fairbrother states that we will now have the problem of transitioning from one boiler to the other, where they could have just ripped the existing boiler out during the summer and put the new one in. Now in December the building has to be kept warm and there will be more coordination and probably higher costs because of the quick change order time.

Abbondanzio states that we are working on those kinds of issues and unfortunately that is how it is.

**Noise By law Ordinance**

This is still being worked on

*Fairbrother makes the motion to go into executive session for litigation at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*