

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

31

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 (Absent); Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI (absent), David Detmold, Montague Reporter

Allen announces meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of October 4, 2010

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2010. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner & Conservation Agent, Approve 2011 Community Development Strategy

Ramsey: The Community Development Strategy is an annual strategy, that is part of the Community Development Block Grant process; every year you have to prove you have all your ducks are in a row. This is a list of prioritized projects going on in town and it doesn't change much year to year. What it does is it serves to summarize all the current planning documents that are currently in the town, describes the community development goals of the Town and presents this list of prioritized projects and identifies geographic areas that will be the focus of the community development efforts. The goal of the Community Development Plan is to revitalize the Town's 5 villages, preserve historic resources, redevelop underutilized properties, rehabilitate older residential properties and to develop transportation alternatives. Changes from last year: Reconstruction of Greenfield road, upgrading of Hatchery Road, (projects are not just Town initiatives), ESCO project,

Allen: We were asked by our legislatures when the design would be finished on Greenfield Road, so we need to do that.

Ramsey: Correct. That is at 75%. A new project that came out of this was to develop a park in Montague City, down the line a new Senior Center as current lease will expire in 2016 and reaching capacity, and

Fairbrother asks if the Senior Center is leased by an entity from us or are we leasing it from an entity.

Allen responds we are leasing it from the Housing Authority.

Ramsey: Another new project on the list is to develop a master plan for downtown Turners Falls that will help to identify underutilized assets in town that are linked to ongoing initiatives and foster the creative economy. Some good news in that regard is the HUD sustainability grant we applied for through the FRCOG was awarded to the county, so we received \$425,000 to develop a Franklin County Regional Plan as well as the Turners Falls Master Plan, a Greenfield Master Plan and a couple other projects throughout the county. It wasn't the full award but it was for most of the money. This will be the next step from the Regionalization Strategy done in the 1990's which has been achieved. An informational meeting was held on September 15, large attendance from the skate park committee, which is a high priority on this project as well as Unity Park improvements. The Town gets bonus points for achieving some of the projects; the Town has several of those that could be taken advantage of for this year's funding: completing safety complex, completing Prospect St. Bridge, Williams Way discontinuance, Unity Park Improvements, Montague Center Reuse Feasibility Study RFP, completed Open Space and Recreation Plan and Green Communities designation.

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the 2011 Community Development Strategy document as presented tonight. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Bridge Update

Allen: Great turn out, and good questions, thought Mass. DOT and contractors were receptive to thinking about things. Everything from snow clearance to still working on signs to make it easy for people to get in and get out. I look forward to better signage.

Fairbrother: One thing I remember that might have offended some people in the room was talking about clearing the sidewalk on the bridge. It was put to the people in the room that they don't clear the sidewalks on any of the other bridges in the valley, we're not clearing yours either. I didn't think that was particularly....

Allen: It may have not politicized the way they said it, but that's their policy in the State. I've talked to people in other towns and they say they clear their own sidewalk.

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

31

Ramsey: I was disappointed, our situation is unique and they have already acknowledged that.

Further discussion about the sidewalk on the bridge.

Allen: Soon we will find out about the Canal bridge repair, and it sounded as though if the gusset plates can be repaired without closing the whole bridge down, they are planning on going ahead and doing it, but if they have to close the entire bridge down then it is not going to happen until after the G/M bridge is done.

Ramsey: The 91 South detour is expected to be open by Thanksgiving.

Brief discussion about lighting on the bridge, snow removal

Town Administrators Report

Sign State Election Warrant

Fairbrother makes the motion to sign the State Election Warrant for the election to be held on November 2, 2010 which includes all the state offices as well as various regional offices, along with the three questions from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at usual voting precincts. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Sign Grant Award Agreement with Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept and authorize the chair to sign the contract documents for a Green Communities Grant in the amount of \$154,944 from the Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources, the purpose of this grant is to buy down the cost of a performance contract which will provide energy efficiency improvements to various municipal buildings, date of grant end date is September 30, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Sign Agreement with Craig Colorusso, Sun Boxes, solar powered sound installation

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept and authorize the Chair to sign the contract dated October 6, 2010 between the Town of Montague and Craig Colorusso of Hingham, MA regarding the sun boxes solar powered sound installation; contract price is \$1750. Funds to come from Riverculture. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Use of Public Property: Harmony Lodge of Masons 5K Race

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a permit and waive fee for use of public property, which being Masonic Avenue, Depot Street and part of Montague City Road to Zachary Billings on behalf of Harmony Lodge of Masons for a 5K race from Harmony Lodge on Masonic Avenue to the Eleventh St. bridge and back via the route specified. The date will be October 23, 2010 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM, approximately 50 participants are expected, Chief of Police has signed off on the event and a copy of insurance has been provided. Seconded by Boutwell. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Use of Public Property: Rag Shag Parade

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve a permit for assembly, public demonstration and use of public property, Avenue A from Second St. to the Food City Parking lot to John Murphy, on behalf of the VFW Turners Falls Post 923 for October 31, 2010 from 4:00 PM through 6:00 PM for the purposes of the Rag Shag Parade down Avenue A, Police Chief Zukowski has signed off on the event and is a town insured event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

(John Murphy has since put this event also under the Trustees Memorial Committee who he has contacted and they are in support of sponsoring this)

Dept. of Agricultural Resources Notification

Fairbrother reads the announcement into the record regarding the Ewell Property on Federal Street, Montague (Assessors Map 48, Lots 140 & 144): Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 7, Section 40I requires that the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) notify the local City Council/Board of Selectmen of the State's intent to purchase, rent, sell or significantly change the use of one or more acres of real estate in a municipality.

Pursuant to that Section, we wish to inform you that the DAR is considering acquiring an interest in approximately 17 acres of land within the municipality of Montague for inclusion in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program as an Agricultural Preservation Restriction.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

31

The property in question, which is currently used for agricultural purposes, is privately owned and will remain so if it becomes a participant in the APR Program. The development rights would be acquired to secure the preservation of the land for agricultural purposes as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 20, Sections 23 through 26 and Chapter 184, Sections 31, 32, and 33. *This will have to be re-discussed at the October 25, 2010 meeting as we need to place it on the agenda.*

Other

Booster Day parade on Saturday (10/23) morning and the Pumpkinfest is in the evening.

Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously.

Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye