

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, December 6, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

37

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, Janel Nockleby, Montague Reporter

Allen announces meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of November 29, 2010

To be approved at the next meeting

Shea Theater Representative, Susan Davis, Comedy at the Shea

Special 1 Day Alcohol License: December 31, 2010; March 5, 2011; April 2, 2011

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a special one day alcohol license to Susan Davis on behalf of the Shea Community Theater, Inc. 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls for December 31, 2010 in conjunction with the Theaters New Years Eve Comedy event at the Shea. Proof of liquor liability insurance to be supplied and the Police Chief has signed off. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a special one day alcohol license to Susan Davis on behalf of the Shea Community Theater, Inc., 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls for March 5, 2011 and April 2, 2011 in conjunction with the Theaters Comedy events at the Shea. Proof of liquor liability insurance to be supplied and the Police Chief has signed off on the request. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to waive the fees for the three Shea Theater Comedy Event licenses just granted. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Event Application: Peskeompskut Park, Music and Arts Event, Suzanne Davis

Davis: Been having Peskeompskut Park Festival in the summer and it seems to be simultaneous as other events. This is primarily a craft fair in Peskeompskut Park to benefit the Shea; we will fill the park with craft vendors and there will be food vendors at the event. Electricity might be needed and the Highway Dept. needs to be contacted regarding request for reserved parking. I just want to tell you how cooperative and wonderful the Highway Dept. is to the Shea in a general sort of fashion. They do a wonderful job fixing building maintenance requests, and snow removal.

Fairbrother asks how this is different than last year (answer: no bands/music or alcohol) and has concerns over possible traffic issues and the lack of police presence. The Police Chief to be contacted about traffic issues and if he feels it is necessary for traffic control; Davis will take care of it.

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the use of Peskeompskut Park including parking spaces along the west side of Avenue A at the Park and along Sixth Street at the Park, along with a special entertainment license (for walking musicians and actors) to Susan Davis on behalf of the Shea Community Theater, Inc. for the Shea's annual music and arts event to be held on May 14, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM with set up starting at 8:00 AM and breakdown through 5:00 PM; attendance is estimated up to 500 people, Police Chief Zukowski has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Davis gives updates at the Shea: Doing wonderful things at the Shea, for the second year in a row, ended up a little bit in the black; starting a new theater company which is coming directly out of the Board of Directors; brought a bunch of new people onto the Board; doing several rentals with Powertown music, a collaboration; bringing in different theater companies to do some summer productions, some things that are different.

Town Administrators Report
Civil Service Appointments

Fairbrother makes the motion to send the following names into Civil Service Agency and authorize them to be sworn in by our Town Clerk: Joshua Hoffman, Clay Delano, Sergei Skorupa and Nathan Coffin. Seconded by Boutwell. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

FY12 Budget Message

Abbondanzio: Wanted to let you know we did send out notices to the Departments for the budget for next year; operating budgets are due in on December 29th, Capital budgets are due in on January 20th. Looking at fiscal projections for FY2012,

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, December 6, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

37

based on the fact that the state is going to have a 2.1 structural deficit, we're taking the advice of Mass. Taxpayers Foundation suggesting that State aid will see a 5% – 10% cut. We went for a more conservative and assumed a 10% cut in state aid. Everyone will be preparing two budgets, one is level service budget and one is a 10% reduction budget. We're also doing things differently in terms of planning for the "dooms day scenario" worst case scenario for example is if the Governor and his administration in the legislature decide that local aid would take a proportionately larger cut if they were trying to preserve another part of the budget that could be significantly be cut.; that is the very worst scenario. We are gathering information to help us this year and next when we have to start dealing with the fact we have a structural deficit of our own, we'll be going to the special town meeting in January to vote \$170,000 from our stabilization fund for the school budget and that will bring our total amount we are using for the budget to about \$350,000. That is not too bad considering the prior two years when it was like \$550,000 and \$800 thousand something the year prior to that. We are making progress in reducing our independence on reserves, but nevertheless, we do have a significant amount of reserves that are used in the funding of the budget and we need to start thinking down the road, what if we had to go cold turkey on that and then we would be looking at a significant cut. I've begun interviewing the department heads, it's a parallel process to the budget, I should be finished with the interviews by the end of the week early part of next week. We are also looking at doing the capital budget differently. The Capital Improvements Committee will be going out as a committee and working with the department heads, looking at the condition of the equipment and facilities. We've given a later date when things are due in on the Capital budget, and we're planning on using that time to work with the departments and to prepare a full blown Capital plan (6 year plan) and program for presentation to the Finance Committee in late March. I will be meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday to tell them what I will be doing. There is still a gap of \$2.1 billion in the States budget even though the State has experienced greater than anticipated receipts in the first 4 months; this may help them relieve their deficit which in turn will help the local aid situation. Things are looking better but they still have to deal with a sizeable amount (\$1.5 billion) of stimulus money from the Federal government that is built into the State budget and that has to be dealt with. That is part of the structural deficit I was talking about that is \$2.1 billion.

Fairbrother comments that 10% cut we've been told to anticipate for next year comes on top of the percentage cuts that we've already received. It's 10% of an ever decreasing pot.

Vote to authorize Board to sign yearly renewal licenses

Fairbrother makes the motion to authorize the Board to sign the following 2011 Licenses once all pre-requisites have been met: Section 12 On and Off Premise Liquor Licenses, Section 15 On and Off Premise Liquor Licenses, ABCC License Renewal Application for 2011, Common Victualler Licenses, Entertainment Licenses, Auto Amusement Devise Licenses, Class II and III Licenses and Lodging House Licenses. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Disclosure of Financial Interest by Special Municipal Employee and Approval by of Exemption as Required by G.L.C. 268A, §20 (c) and §20(d)

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve Erin Meyers as a Special Municipal Employee as required by Mass. General Laws 268A, §20 (c) and §20(d). Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Event Application for use of Peskeompskut Park: Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve use of Peskeompskut Park by the Montague Parks and Recreation Dept. on Saturday, February 19th from 1:00 PM through 2:30 PM with set up from 12:00 PM through 3:30 PM for the purpose of a snow sculpture function, fee to be waived. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Budget Message

Abbondanzio: The Assessors wanted me to make one point know. In the letter that I sent out, I mentioned that the debt exclusion for the Police Station was driving that 7% increase. Basically, they broke it out for me: the tax rate increase without the debt exclusion for residential would have been 3.7%, instead with debt exclusion it is 7.5%. On the commercial side it is 3.3% and with the debt exclusion it is 7.1%. It is roughly 4% increase added to the tax rate, but that is something the voters voted. It was interesting to know this.

Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye