

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, February 14, 2011
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

05

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 (absent), Janel Nockleby, Montague Reporter

Allen announces meeting is being taped

Allen announced that last Wednesday several people went to Boston with Lisa Davol when RiverCulture received an award. It was a nice event.

Approve Minutes of January 31, 2011

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Frank Abbondanzio, Sign Local Support Documentation Form for the Public Health District Incentive Grant Program

- Board of Health already signed off on this, Gina McNeeley is in favor of participating in the grant that will conduct a study to fund a Regional Health District.
- Study will run March through September and will be administered through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Phoebe Walker.
- Main reason of being part of this grant is a consultant will evaluate what the costs and benefits of being part of a district are with the advantage of the Town being a part of this.
- It looks as if it won't result in a lot of savings to the Town, but one of the main advantages is down the road especially, as we get more and more mandates the Board of Health will be better equipped to handle them because they will have the resources without having to hire new people at the Town level. A lot of money is spent by various towns on health services. There is a lot of duplication that can be eliminated.
- One issue in particular mentioned by McNeeley is the new mandate to be in charge of the landfill. If you have the entire region working together, you could hire someone who had expertise in that.

Fairbrother makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign and submit the document to become a member of this planning grant proposal through the public health department. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye. Boutwell announces he is also a member of the Board of Health.

**Town Administrators Report
Adopt Inclement Weather Policy**

Allen: I don't think we are quite ready to sign the document; after meeting with some of the Department Heads, was thinking we needed to add a sentence to the effect of department heads may elect to work if the building is closed, other employees may only work with department head approval.

Fairbrother and Boutwell are in agreement this needs to be added, but Boutwell thinks if the department head needs someone to come in to work, it should be passed on to Frank or the Board of Selectmen.

Allen proposes motion to add the following: Department Heads may elect to work if the building is closed, other employees may only work with department head approval and notification to the Town Administrator and/or Board of Selectmen.

Fairbrother would like to wait until the policy is updated before approving. Will be put on the next agenda.

No Smoking in Playground Area at Peskeompskut Park

This is in conjunction with a proposal made by Parks and Rec,

Allen talked to Gina McNeeley and both feel it should be a BOH regulation so it has some teeth behind it if we need to enforce it somehow. This issue will be sent on to the Board of Health. Fairbrother would like to be notified before final approval of the regulation.

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Sign Annual Report to ABCC

Fairbrother makes the motion to authorize Pat Allen to sign the 2010 Annual Report to ABCC. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Vote and Sign estimated resident population to ABCC

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the Estimated Resident Population report to ABCC. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Request to Establish a Montague Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee

- Participating with the FRCOG in the Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning process and have to update the committee that will work on the plan.
- Walter Ramsey provided a recommendation as to the people who should be on the committee, same people who participated in the 2004 planning process.

Fairbrother makes the motion to establish a Montague Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee with the following people: Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator; Superintendent Tom Bergeron, Montague Dept. of Public Works; Chief Ray Zukowski, Montague Police Department; Superintendent Michael Brown, Turners Falls Water Department; Gary Dion, Chair, Montague Center Water Commission; Robert Escott, Emergency Management Director, Town of Montague; Chief Raymond Godin, Turners Falls Fire Department; Chief John Greene, Montague Center Fire Department; Walter Ramsey, Town Planner/Conservation Agent; Representative from Northeast Utilities; and a representative from the Health Department. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Appointments to GMTA

Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Frank Abbondanzio and Anne Kretzenger to the Greenfield/Montague Transit Authority representing Montague from today 2/14/11 through January 31, 2013. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

FY2012 CDBG application – Vote to work with Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority

- Regional Housing Authority is proposing to work with the Town of Montague again to apply for the FY2012 Mass. Community Development Block Grant.
- Still waiting on hearing about FY11 grant, which won't be announced until close to summer
- They have done a great job for us in the past, been working with them for almost 30 years. Want to be contacted in writing by April 29th.
- Presidents current budget proposes a 7.5% cut in the CDBG program. It will depend on how the State decides to allocate the cut.
- Allen agrees with Frank that that FCHRA have done a great job, there are very few of their projects that Montague has not been involved in.

Fairbrother makes a motion to use and work with the FCRHA to administer the upcoming round of CDBG funds and prepare the application. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Letter from First Light re: Notice of Canal Shutdown on September 17, 2011

First Light has notified the Town that they will drain the canal on Monday, September 12 through Saturday, September 17, 2011.

FRCOG – FY2012 Budget and Montague Assessment

- FRCOG has level funded their Regional Services Assessment which goes for administration, advocacy, regional projects and to leverage state and federal grants and they voted to level fund the Statutory Assessment which pays for retiree costs, including the Franklin Regional Retirement System's unfunded liability.
- Total assessment will go up somewhat because our Equalized Valuation per Capita went up, but basically the budget itself was level funded.
- Included in the budget: Statutory Assessment \$17,738; Regional Services Assessment \$31,915 total budget of \$49,653.

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- In addition Montague participates in other FRCOG programs that we have to pay for: Cooperative Purchasing (bid fuel oil, diesel, gasoline, highway projects, dog tags and license) because we do them jointly, we save money. We are working with them on the dispatching study as well as other studies.

Board of Selectmen's Next Meeting Date

At the moment there is nothing that needs to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Will wait until Thursday to see if any comes up, if not the Board will not meet on Tuesday, the next meeting will be on February 28th.

Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirement

- Allen shows newspaper clipping from the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, February 6th about the Montague Book Mill.
- Big Box Hearing, this Thursday 2/17/11. Allen contacted Mik Muller, Montague Business Association (MBA); there is no Chairman for the EDIC. 7 members from the 26 members responded to Mik Muller and none of them think the big box as it is currently proposed is a good idea; a lot of the comments are reflecting the competition and that is not something the Planning Board has any control over or can legislate in any way, traffic was another issue.
- Flu shots available on Thursdays at Town Hall in the Nurses Office
- Still looking for Agricultural Commission Members to reinstate the commission
- Abbondanzio asks that the Board authorize the chair to sign any documents that need to be submitted to the state in regards to the Mayhew Economic Opportunity Area and TIF plan.

Fairbrother makes the motion to authorizes the Chair to sign any documents that need to be submitted to the state in regards to the Mayhew Economic Opportunity Area and TIF plan. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously.

Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

- Boutwell would like an update on Railroad Salvage building.

Fairbrother makes the motion to go into executive session for purpose of litigation at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen - Aye