

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, April 25, 2011
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, Janel Nockleby, Montague Reporter

Allen announces meeting is being taped

Announcement made of upcoming events.

Minutes of April 11 and 25, 2011 not available at this time

Don Clegg, Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration, or Use of Public Property: Great Falls Farmers Market

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for use of public property for Doanld Clegg for the Great Falls Farmers Market at the corner of Avenue A, Second Street in front of the Discovery Center, from Wednesday, May 4, 2011 through October 26, 2011 on Wednesdays beginning at 2:00 PM and ending at 6:00 PM with set up starting at 1:15 PM and breakdown by 6:30 PM, the Chief has signed off on the request. Secoded by Fairbrother , approved unanimously Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Kara McLaughlin, Introduction of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership

McLaughlin: Work for the G/M Community School Partnership which is a local coalition that has been around since 2002. I originally started working doing peer mediation in the middle school and high school in 2005 then switched over to full time several years ago. Power Point presentation started (included with minute file)

Abbondanzio: At some point it seems that the block grant would interface with this.

Town Administrators Report

Review Proposed Precinct Map

Abbondanzio: Deb has asked me to explain what tonight is all about. It is not to get you to vote on the map, basically she wants to know if the Selectmen like the map and if you do, she will go back to the Secretary of States Office and they will make the appropriate changes and divide the legal descriptions that you need and then you can vote on those. This map addresses the concern about villages being split in half.

Allen commented that the map looks much more like we were hoping it would be, as well as Boutwell. Fairbrother would just as well stay with 6, but that's a done deal. If you're going with three this is much better.

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board approves of the map presented tonight over the map presented at a previous meeting. Secoded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Sign Annual Town Election Warrant

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the annual town election warrant on May 16, 2011 as written: One Selectman, for three years; One Assessor, for three years; Three Public Library Trustees, for three years; One Public Library Trustee, for two years; One Parks & Recreation Commissioner, for three years; One Board of Health Member, for three years; One Housing Authority Member, for five years; One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Veteran), for three years; One Soldiers' Memorial Trustee (Non-Veteran), for three years; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 1, for three years; One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 1, for one year; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 2, for three years; One Town Meeting Member, Precinct 2, for two years; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3, for three years; Two Town Meeting Members, Precinct 3 for two years; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 4, for three years; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 5, for three years; Seven Town Meeting Members, Precinct 6, for three years; Three Town Meeting Members, Precinct 6, for two years. Voting will be 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Secoded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrators Report

Gill-Montague Bridge Lights

Abbondanzio: This has to do with the lights on the G/M Bridge and who pays for them. The issue is not resolved at this point; I have been in touch with WMECO and the legislatures. Firstlight gave me a cost estimate; there are 54 lights, 27 on either side that will replace 8 lights that are currently on the bridge. Currently the Town pays for 5 lights through the

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Turners Falls Fire District and Gill pays for 3. We currently pay \$1500 a year on an unmetered rate. WMECO owns and maintains the lights and each town pays the delivery rental charge and the current energy supplier cost. The new lights are a different story; they are not going to be owned by the Utilities, we are no longer leasing lights they are part of the bridge so the bill goes to the owner of the bridge. Right now the owner is the Commonwealth as that bridge has been laid out as a state highway in 2008 in anticipation of the project. The question is what happens when the project is completed? The argument we are trying to make is that this bridge is no different than Sunderlands where the State pays for the lights. Based on the anticipated usage we are expecting \$5,000 a year just for energy costs, in addition since the lights are not owned by the utilities, someone has to also pay for the cost of maintaining the fixtures, the cost of replacing light bulbs which have not been calculated yet. It is to our advantage to make sure the State ends up the one who pays the bills in the end. If we are responsible to pay bill, maybe you don't have 54 lights on at one time. We did not have a whole lot of input in the design of this plan. It has been put on record with the State that we don't feel we should be responsible for paying this. Ray Purrington from Gill has also brought this forward as well as the Turners Falls Water and Lighting District.

Vote on Article 29, "Unregistered Motor Vehicles"

Abbondanzio: After back and forth with staff and Town Counsel it was recommended that the Selectmen recommend a negative vote and bring it back later. The motion to go before the Town Meeting members is so different that it would be confusing. Not a lot of changes in substance but it would be difficult to follow the discussion.

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board recommend to Town Meeting that we would like a no vote on Article 29, Unregistered Motor Vehicles. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Vote on Declaring Montague Center School Property as Surplus

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board of Selectmen vote to declare the property known as the Montague Center School surplus and available for disposition in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 30B, Section 16. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Montague Capital Improvements Committee to issue a Request for Proposals for the disposition of the Montague Center School property. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Capital Improvements committee to establish a minimum price for the sale of the Montague Center School Property. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board of Selectmen, as a condition of any sale of the Montague Center School Property to a non-profit organization, make provisions in the purchase and sales agreement requiring said non-profit organization to make annual payments equivalent to any taxes that would otherwise be paid to the town by any other owners. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Montague Center School RFP Update

Abbondanzio: I went through the RFP and have tried to simplify it a little bit. There is not a lot of changes that I'll be proposing the Capital Improvements Committee.

Response to Open Meeting Complaint from Peter Golrick

Abbondanzio: Two major issues brought up by Mr. Golrick and the letter addresses both of them. 1) That members of the By-law committee hadn't been sworn in 2) the new committee must appoint a clerk to manage the records. Response to letter is that the Board of Selectmen do not believe they have committed a violation of the open meeting law or public records law. The By-law review committee is a special purpose study committee apprised entirely of Town Staff, all individuals appointed to this committee have already been sworn to office in their capacity as appointed or elected public official. The committee is not a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen or any other public body that would trigger the open meeting law. Meetings of the committee are staff meetings and the actions are purely advisory in nature and are made only in support of policy making decisions by the Board of Selectmen. Response to letter attached to file

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the letter to be sent to Mr. Golrick. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

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Other

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the resignation from Scott Bastrache as Reserve Officer effective April 13, 2011 for the Montague Police Department. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration, or Use of Public Property: Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball league, Frank Campbell as contact, on Sunday, May 1, 2011 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM the 50th year of the parade, expecting to have 175 people marching in the parade, mostly ball players, to go from Unity Park to Avenue A to Seventh Street then up the hill to the fields and the Police Chief has signed off on this. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Event Application for use of Peskeompskut Park: Cinco De Mayo Children's Festival

Boutwell makes the motion to approve use of Peskeompskut Park by Linda Hickmen, Montague Public Libraries for the Cinco De Mayo Children's Festival on Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 10:00 AM to Noon, set up at 9:00 AM, clean up 11:30 to noon, approximately 75 people attending and the police chief has signed off on the event. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the use of Peskeompskut Park by Linda Hickman of the Montague Public Libraries for Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM with set up at 12:30 PM and Clean up until 3:00 PM; approximate number of people expected to attend is 50 for the Crabapple Blossom Festival Concert with the Greasy Cuffs Song Tour. The fee for the event to be waived and the chief has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to go into executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, #3 for the purposes of collective bargaining one for Town administrator and one for the Police Chief if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, #6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body in regards to a parcel in the Industrial Park at 8:00 PM, seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye.