

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING AGENDA
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, August 15, 2011**

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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 (absent); Chris Curtis, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI, Matt Small, Montague Reporter

Fairbrother opens the meeting and announces the meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of August 1, 2011

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, August 1, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent

FY2012 Sewer Rate Hearing

Fairbrother announces that this is a Sewer rate public hearing on the proposed FY2012 Sewer rate assessments

Trombley: Sewer rates are user fees charged that we charge all the people who are connected to the Towns sewer system in the Town of Montague. The intent for the last couple of years has been keeping the rates the same, with no increase and I believe we can do that again this year. The rates in 2010 and 2011 reflect savings in operations at the plant due to some things we have done with the process changes, and again this year with the new rotary press that is up and operating and the budget I developed for 2012 was a 5% reduction in the overall budget, we believe we can hold rates again. One of the issues that always comes up from the Town Accountant, Carolyn Olsen is generated by the Department of Revenue's comments. When you take a look at the budget as compared to what the revenues are to support that budget we've had a mismatch the last few years and Carolyn feels we need to use retained earnings to account for the mismatch and we're both looking at that. In order to use retained earnings, that requires a vote at town meeting. What I'm asking to do this evening is for consideration to set the rates, hopefully for the whole fiscal year, if not at least for the first half, at the same as they were last year, and in the mean time, Carolyn and I will continue to look at the revenue issue and the Town Treasurer will be able to take the rates developed and send out the bills so she can get revenue in house and minimize short term borrowing and interest expenses that comes along with that.

John Yaros (Southworth): We agree with the recommendation.

Allen makes the motion to set the FY2012 Sewer Rates at Rate I - \$5.56; Rate II and IV are \$6.00; Flat Rate - \$334; Non- Contract Surcharges Total Suspended Solids \$0.3283 per pound, BOD \$0.3554 per pound; Contract Surcharge – Southworth - \$0.2041 per pound of excess total suspended solids; Septage In Town and Town of Gill \$90/1,000 gallons, out of Town \$95/1,000; Interest rate will be 14% per Annum, Demand Charge \$5.00; Minimum Bill will be \$36.00. (As per handout dated August 11, 2011) Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Sewer Rate Hearing Closed

Change Order #6

Allen makes the motion to approve change order 6 (which was previously #8 and #10) to the total of \$6,100.61 for contract number 2010-1, with an increase of completion time of work for 72 calendar days which would end on October 28, 2011. Total adjusted contract price of \$1,113,664.90. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

CSO Updates

Trombley: Rotary Press project is almost complete, we are running the press and are having our third trailer load of sludge hauled away today and was taken out. So far, things are pretty good. The actual production tests by Fornier have had to be delayed twice because they require a certain quantity of sludge and a certain

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percent of solids and we have not been able to meet that. A lot of that is driven by the paper mill and what kinds of solids they give and how much. Until we meet the criteria, we have to hold off on final testing; right now we are looking at the end of August for these tests.

Canal Bridge Closure

Allen: The canal bridge is going to be closed September 11 through about September 19th when First Light draws down the water and MassHighway is going to work on the Canal Bridge. There will be no traffic going across the bridge.

Bob Martin, St. Stanislaw B.M. Society, Inc.

Boutwell recuses himself

Allen makes the motion to approve a Special 1-day alcohol license for St. Stanislaw B.M. Society, Inc. at 6 K Street, Turners Falls for their 100 year Anniversary Party and dinner with live band on September 17, 2011. This has been signed of by the Police Chief and proof of liquor liability has been received. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – recused from meeting

Jelissa Caraballo/Mariel Caraballo (Pastor)

Allen makes the motion to approve the use of Peskeopmskut Park for the Spanish Church Luz De Salvacion on September 10, 2011 from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM for their public Christian event. The Police Chief has signed off on the event and the insurance certificate has been received. If food is to be served, permission from Board of Health must be granted. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Maggie Houghton, Evaluation of William Hunting Dogs being held by the Town

Fairbrother: This is concerning the 4 dogs we had at our last meeting, ordered to have brought into custody; one was scheduled to be put down.

Brief discussion of written evaluation of Will Hunting Dogs, Buddy, F1, F2 and M1 performed by Elise McMahon, Canine Head Start

SSgt. Williams was present at the evaluations and was surprised at how calm the dogs were. These dogs can't be roaming and whoever adopts the companion dogs, they will have to be tied up or in some type of fenced in area or I would think they would revert back to what they were used to. Being in the kennel, being out on a leash, all but the one they were fine. They did seem like different dogs being in the kennel and away from the house. They tested Buddy to be strictly a working dog and there is a farm in Pennsylvania that would take him where he would be totally fenced in and just livestock. As far as the other three for companionship, I didn't see anything up there that would make me not want to adopt one.

Houghton: It is going to be a little bit of work, but I think those dogs are shy not aggressive. They have never been in the house or on a leash. They can be brought around relatively quickly.

Dr. Brown: Have had the opportunity to spend time with the dogs while they were at the pound and I had experience with them when they were previously taken off the property and Maggie's friend had them at her house. I totally concur with Ms. McMahon's findings, I think Buddy should be placed in a livestock guarding situation and I think the fact that a potential home has been found out of state is a really good situation, so you wouldn't have the potential of going back to Wills and I think Maggie's rescue organization would be ideal for the other 3 dogs. I've seen her work for years and have been her veterinarian for years and she does an excellent job placing them.

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Colleen Mosca commented that she visited the dogs and didn't see any aggression with them.

Northeast Great Pyrenees Rescue representatives: Dogs did not show any aggression in any shape, form or manner. They did their barking and as soon as I spoke to them they stopped barking and their tails came up and were wagging and were interested in trying to get closer. Buddy continued to bark a little longer and eventually he stopped and laid down, but wasn't aggressive. We would like to take the Great Pyrenees, the mother.

Jeanette Grover inquires about volunteer opportunities

Fairbrother: It sounds like we have a lot of public support for these dogs and good homes for all four of them.

Allen: Would like some type of notice to follow these dogs stating that there have been several aggressive incidents involving these dogs at some point so people are aware when these dogs go somewhere that there have been real incidents in the Town of Montague.

Boutwell would like to see a statement of how the dogs were treated by the owner added to the letter.

Fairbrother asks Frank to draft a letter stating the effect that they have had a documented aggressive past as part of a group and apparently the owner was not able to care for the dogs properly.

Allen makes the motion that the pure bred Great Pyrenees be placed with the North East Pyrenees Rescue Group for adoption with our thanks from Dr. Brown for providing rabies shots to this dog if necessary prior to it leaving the dog pound. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Allen makes the motion that the two mixed dogs be released to Almost Home, under the auspices of Maggie Houghton after they are insured that their rabies shots are up to date (with our thanks from Dr. Brown for providing rabies shots to this dog if necessary prior to it leaving the dog pound). Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Allen makes the motion to release Buddy to Elise McMahon with the understanding that he is going to the Marrema Rescue in Pennsylvania with the understanding also that that dog will be used as a livestock guard dog, with the letter to go with him mentioned above, and rabies shots to be given if necessary. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Thom Long, Riverscaping

Long: Here representing Riverscaping project which is a grant that has been funded by the European Union. It has many facets with one taking representatives from different communities to Hamburg to learn more about their progressive cityscapes overseas. Some of the things that have come from that and from our discussions in April that brought forward over 150 representatives from various communities. The objective and mission of the Riverscaping Project is to imagine from Springfield to Turners Falls and beyond one community that is bound by the river. We're looking for common issues, tactics, common cultural overlaps between these communities and trying to imagine one city, one community using art, using the environment and using issues of community. Right now we are focusing on four cities Turners Falls, Hadley, Springfield and Holyoke. The facet of the grant we are here to talk about is the competition we have coming up that is twofold. It is focused on the region on one level and local on the second level. On a regional level we are looking for designers, artists and environmentalist to come up with a strategy to communicate to the communities that we are one community and we share all these recourses; so what would that look like and invite artists and environmentalists to imagine that which is a theoretical project that is part one of the component of the competition. Part two is we have a design competition for an art piece, an environmental

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piece and scientific piece. Some creative installation in four locations and we have \$7500 for each piece to be built. The design competition is slated to take place throughout the fall from early to mid September through December we'll choose a winner for each site, and throughout the spring the projects will be built and installed. At this point, we've been working with communities, we've had a community meeting here once where we listened to what the communities interests were, what some of their challenges were and we had a discussion with the community and took a lot of notes about that. I also sat down with Lisa and Walter and we walked around the neighborhood and looked at various locations and talked about some of the issues we'd like to focus on in the completion here. Basically we are here to discuss and get your opinion on a site that we could use for our competition. We don't have anything to get permitted at this time, but would like permission to include a particular site, or multiple sites in the competition for exploration and the selected piece would have to go through additional permitting process within the community. Our discussions raised the site of the vacant mill building across from the canal walk/bikeway as having the potential to be a transformative element in the community if that building was taken over, renovated and became useful space or some type of residence or artistic space or commercial space that that building would have a significant impact on the community and we felt our project within all the different communities would draw attention to the potentials of each communities through the art installation. That particular spot is our first choice and we felt we could draw attention to it through the project as well as through the press, throwing regional as well as international attention to a vacant building that very much impressed our Hamburg guests when they came over. This project would be installed for 1 – 2 years, should the Town love the project and want to own it, they would have the opportunity to tell the artist they want to maintain it. It may not be tangible, it could be lights or sound. We've seen facades of mill buildings being used in real creative ways. The concrete pad between the two buildings is a surface that an artist might choose to use if someone wanted to erect something and needed a ground. This is as much your project as it is ours, we're just funding it and trying to organize it in a way that is meaningful and useful to you.

Brief discussion about insurance for the project and removal of debris pile.

Allen makes the motion to endorse the concept of Riverscaping to use their site number 1, which is building 11 plus the pad if possible of Strathmore with the understanding that the design will come back before the Selectboard for final approval as well as going through other Town departments and there will be a design committee made up of local residents. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Town Administrators Report

Update on debris pile at Strathmore

Abbondanzio: The actual grant has been approved by the committee at the FRCOG and we're working on the loan part of it.

Hampshire COG – Energy Purchase Letter, Geoff Rogers

Rogers: We recently hired a consultant to help us do what we do smarter, to do a better job of buying and how to restructure our program so the prices are more advantageous for you as well as keeping us alive so we don't fizzle. One of their first recommendations was to get rid of the profit sharing program as soon as we possibly could because the profit sharing program is a profit sharing but not a risk sharing program. What has happened in the last 5 years is we've had 4 terrific years when we've given part of the profits back to you profit sharing folks, for Montague it has equaled \$23,740.89. FY11 was a tough year to be in the electricity supply business for various reasons. We are still offering a fixed price. I am suggesting that the Town of Montague switch your accounts from Profit Sharing to real time. The other thing I would suggest is we take all of your street light accounts and drop them; put them back in the utilities lap because the utilities can sell you power cheaper than anybody, they are going to sell it to you at 6-1/2 cents. If at some point that price pops up above the real time price, then we'd love to take those accounts back.

Discussion about savings and real time costs

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Allen makes the motion that the Town of Montague contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments Electricity Supply contract for real time for one year, effective September 1, 2011 the local utility would be WMECO with 3 cent per kilowatt hour administrative fee, Frank will be the contact. *This has been tabled until August 29, 2011*

Update on EPA Meeting

Abbondanzio: Last week Gina McNeely and I met with representatives from the EPA and DEP to discuss the dieseling issue in Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls. We are going to have another meeting in late September and will be inviting someone from the Federal Railroad Administration, the Service Transportation Board, representatives from EPA and DEP and also possibly our legislative representatives as well.

Update on Montague Center School

Abbondanzio: We had request for proposals out which were due on August 4th on the Montague Center School Building and unfortunately we did not get any quotes on that. We will have to go back to the drawing board and have the CIC take another look at it.

Presentation of Development of a Planned Industrial Community at Turners Falls

Abbondanzio: I'm doing a presentation on Thursday night on the development on the history of the planned industrial community at Turners Falls at the Discovery Center at 7:00 PM

TOMEA Negotiations – August 25th

Abbondanzio: There is a TOMEA negotiation meeting on August 25th at 4:30 PM.

Sign MESA Letter

Abbondanzio: I ran draft of the letter by Peggy Sloan of the FRCOG because she was involved in the discussions we had on the Industrial Park in the Montague Plains and also on the Natural Heritage people. Letters will be sent to Representative Anne N. Gobi, Senator Marc R. Pacheco and Representative Christopher M. Markey. The letter was signed as it was previously approved.

Sign License to Enter and Use Real Property – Ted and Alice Armen, School Street

Allen makes the motion to approve the license between the Town of Montague and Ted and Alice Armen of 68 Main Street, Montague for a portion of the Town property, 7,000 square feet or less for use of planting and cultivating a garden, Assessors Map 43, Lot 123, Book 1656, Page 151 for an annual fee of \$10 for one year. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

FRCOG Planning Board Representative Appointment

Allen makes the motion to appoint Robert O'Bear effective August 15, 2011 to the Franklin County Planning Board for a one year term, expiring June 30, 2012. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Response from Nadine Ekstrom regarding DESE Level 4 Category

Abbondanzio: This is a letter to the BOS in both the Town of Montague and Gill that deals with DESE Level 4 designation. This is something both boards had written letters on questioning the wisdom of it and this is the response of the district.

Allen: School Committee will be meeting tomorrow night about some issues and at 7:00 the DESE people will be there. There is 20 minutes on the agenda after the DESE presentation for public discussion and there is another 20 minute discussion being allowed for what the district is putting into place.

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Sign Support for Olive Street parking Garage

Abbondanzio: This is a letter of support for the Olive Street parking garage in Greenfield written to the MassWorks Infrastructure Program.

Allen makes the motion to authorize the Chair, Mark Fairbrother sign the letter dated September 1, 2011 to Ms. Victoria Maguire, State Permit Ombudsman of MassWorks Infrastructure Program indicating our support for the Olive Street Parking Garage in Greenfield, MA. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Other

- Abbondanzio: I received a call from Art Gilmore this morning and he asked if it would be possible to put up one of those speed boards on Millers Falls Road because people are flying down the road. He was going to talk with the Chief.
- Abbondanzio: Next week we are going to be meeting with the Sheriff's people to talk about animal control.
- Allen: This Thursday is the Franklin County Dispatch meeting. At the FRCOG meeting it was brought up that the group has come up with three suggestions and they were thinking they would not pursue one of the three because they did not think it would be accepted. It happened to be the one where there would be one dispatch for the entire region. The representatives at the FRCOG meeting said they still wanted to hear about it, to know why it wouldn't be considered and they may possibly add one more. If people have serious concerns about what options might be used, they should go to this meeting so they can actually talk and give us some input on what they think might be going on. All the Town's except for Greenfield and Montague have not paid anything for dispatch services. I think that won't continue

Peer to Peer Program

This is verification of a peer to peer grant with the Department of Housing and Community Development to be used for municipal GIS System. You get \$1000 and you're able to pay an expert who does this in another town, pay him an hourly stipend

Allen makes the motion to appoint Walter Ramsey to be our official contact person with the DHCD peer to peer program. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye