

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, October 24, 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; Jeff Tirrell, WHAI; Chris Curtis, Greenfield Recorder, David Detmold, Montague Reporter*

**Fairbrother opens the meeting and announces the meeting is being taped**

**Approve Minutes of October 17, 2011**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of Monday, October 17, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

**Board of Assessors, FY2012 Tax Classification Hearing**

Barbara Miller: Every year we do the tax classification hearing to determine what the amount of the shift will be from the residential to the commercial industrial and personal property. We also do whether or not to adopt an open space discount, residential exemption and whether or not to adopt a small commercial exemption. What has happened is there has been a reduction in the values of the residential properties primarily with a reduction in the commercial mixed use property. What you can see from the tax rates, is because the residential values went down, though the tax rate increased by 4.6% the actual tax bills have not gone up as much because the residential values, because you are multiplying the higher tax rate times the lower value. The commercial industrial and the personal property, you can see there is a little bit more of an increase in value to the commercial property. The industrial appears to have gone up quite a bit more, but that is because Mayhew Steel put on a large addition which was a \$1.5 million increase in value so that causes the average value to appear to have gone up more than what it really did, which gives a little bit of inconsistency in what the percent of the increase of the average industrial tax bill is. The Turners Falls Fire District wasn't able to get a quorum tonight to vote on this so we will be meeting next week.

*Allen makes the motion to adopt a residential factor of .888714. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to adopt an open space discount. Seconded by Boutwell, not approved unanimously. Allen – Nay, Boutwell – Nay, Fairbrother - Nay*

*Allen makes the motion to adopt a residential exemption Seconded by Boutwell, not approved unanimously. Allen – Nay, Boutwell – Nay, Fairbrother - Nay*

*Allen make the motion to adopt a small commercial exemption. Seconded by Boutwell, not approved unanimously. Allen – Nay, Boutwell – Nay, Fairbrother - Nay*

**Personnel Board**

**Request by Robert Trombley to hire laborer**

Trombley: I am requesting permission to increase the staffing at the WPCF from 6 to 7 full time employees. The added position is that of a WPCF Laborer. Over the last year the staff and I have been discussing this issue and we have come to the conclusion that a lower level labor position is needed to support the operational staff. Over the years staffing levels have changed at the WPCF: September 1993 – 9 personnel, November 1994 – 7, July 2008 – 6. We have worked to cover our responsibilities with 6 personnel. Now that the CSO project is ending, the rotary press is operating and that we may be adding a new pump station it becomes clearer that we cannot adequately cover all ends. Existing vacation time (19 weeks), personal time (18 days, 3.6 weeks) and holidays (13 days, 2.6 weeks) total to 25.2 weeks almost ½ year without use of sick leave. The estimated cost for the addition of this position is: Pay Grade = H3-1 = \$14.45/hr. 1 Dec. 2011 – 30 June 2012 = \$17,456. Though the position has not been budgeted for in this fiscal year I believe funding for this position is not an issue based on current year expenditures. Assistant Lab Tech duties have been added to Tina's position and she now works 40 hours a week. The request for her step/grade change has been sent to the BOS for review because that is in addition to her duties as a secretary for the facilities. It has not been resolved yet.

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Allen: Thinks it is probably an excellent thing to do, but is unsure with how many other positions people are talking about looking at steps and adjusting them again. I would rather see them all at once figure out what we can do. I know there are a couple of other positions in town that are talking about changing their steps, if not their grades. It's the whole package for personnel change that I'm looking at rather than isolating one position versus another, which means you probably wouldn't be able to hire someone by December 1.

Trombley: That was my wish list, but I understand.

Boutwell was surprised to see this request so soon. Would like to see Finance Committee's opinion on this too.

Fairbrother comments on requirements issued from the State

Allen would like Bob to sit down with Carolyn and go over figures for the labor's position including benefits as well as Tina's position. The Board would like to see an explanation showing all benefits

Trombley would like to hire a full timer, but part time is better than nobody, but would rather full time.

**Robert Trombley, WPCF, Combined Sewer Overflow/Rotary Press Project**

Trombley: Change Order for the replacement of 5 outside doors to the Operations Building. The work involves door access to the following rooms: Headworks – Door, frame, hinges, lock & closer; Barminutor Room/1962 original headworks – Door, frame, hinge & lock; Electrical Room – Door, hinges, lock & closer; Shop/1962 original shop – Door, frame, hinges & lock; Regulator Room/1962 – Door, hinges & lock. Includes labor & paint. Total cost for this change order = \$26,941.05. The doors are in various stages of failure due to the environment (moisture & hydrogen sulfide) and heavy use over 30 years. This is the last change order for this project. Remaining project appropriations after this change order = \$5,784. This is change order #7

*Allen makes the motion to approve the change order for the replacement of 5 outside doors for the Combined Sewer Overflow Rotary Press Project and extend the completion date for the project to December 31, 2011; Change order #7, in the amount of \$26,941.05 pending notification of funds being available. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Town Administrators Report (Given by Wendy Bogusz)**

**Sign contract and scope of service with Mass. Cultural Council**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the contract and scope of services between the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Town of Montague for \$3,870 with the contract extending from November 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Other**

Dwayne St. Marie, lives at 172 Avenue A, Third Floor (above Dolan and Dolan), Turners Falls

Wanted to state his complaints about the Pumpkinfest: About 15 feet outside his building on the edge of the curb, they set up an outside cooking stand. There was a barbeque grill set up, 3 deep fried gas fryolators; all the smoke, fumes, all the toxic crap was coming up into his apartment. They fired it up about 2:00 PM, at 3:00 PM he had a migraine head ache, didn't go to the festival except for a few minutes. It was noisy too; Took a nap and woke about 5:15 PM because carbon monoxide detector was going off in apartment. Unplugged detector from wall to make it quiet, because he knew what to do; opened the windows and put fans in the windows to try and change air in the room, then he went outside. Returned to the apartment after about an hour and decided he needed to complain about this. He was going to call the fire department but knew what had to be done, and just had to get out of there and air it out. Went back around 6:30, plugged carbon monoxide detector back in and it didn't go off, so he figured it was safe to be there. Tried to take pictures, but they didn't come out to clear. Maybe because he was woozy or that he was shooting through a double pane window with light on the glass, but you can see the machines.

Allen thought she had seen the smoke too, but it was decided it was the cotton candy man who was using a fogger that put out just steam

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St. Marie: You can't blame the person that got put there and doing the cooking, they obviously told the person that was organizing it, what they were going to do and they said okay you got this spot. It wasn't a good spot, should have been put somewhere without residents. After 6:30 when the detector stopped going off, I spent the rest of the night at the other end of my apartment at the furthest window from the street with a fan in the window blowing fresh air from the outside on me. My head ache didn't go away until 3 hours after they shut down. I assume they have to come through you for all the permits so you must have all the information about the organizers and planners and whoever put this together. As far as I'm concerned, they ruined my day and gave me a pounding headache and they have to have liability insurance and I'm going to need that as well.

Allen: I suspect no one had stopped to think about where in terms of placing where those particular elements go.

St. Marie: But they will next year.

Allen: That's why it's good you came forward and said something.

St. Marie: I haven't talked to my neighbors, it might have been because I'm so high up. Who do I contact about that?

Fairbrother: You just did. Chris is also on the Board of Health

Boutwell: I will see that the minutes get to the Health Department and who was in that block. It will have to be moved for next year. St. Marie is told he can see Wendy during working hours to get his contact information.

Positive comments made about how well the Pumpkinfest went.

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

*Allen makes the motion to go into Executive Session for Collective Bargaining at 7:50PM and only coming out to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*