

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, December 12, 2011**

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 (absent), Janel Nockelby, Montague Reporter

Fairbrother opens the meeting and announces the meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of November 28, 2011 and December 5, 2011

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2011, seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2011 seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Shea Theater, 1 Day Alcohol License

Boutwell recuses himself from the meeting

Allen makes the motion to approve the request for the special one day alcohol license for the Shea Theater at 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls for December 31, 2011 for their Comedy Night and has been approved by Sgt. Charles Dodge for the Chief of Police and insurance on file and fee to be waived. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye. Boutwell - recused

Upcoming events at the Shea discussed

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, Change in Septage Rate

Trombley: Septage rates are what we charge for the delivery of Septage for people who are not connected to the Towns sewer system or from out of town sources. Historically rates have always been set at one rate for in Town and one rate for out of Town. Currently, this fiscal year the in town rates are nine cents per gallon and out of town are nine and a half cents per gallon. We are looking at wanting to bring in more septage for several reasons, one is to help us increase % solids on the press. This is not like the normal handling method, bypasses all major processes and would reduce cost significantly of handling that load or loads of septage that we could put directly into the sludge storage tanks. The side benefit of that, because septage is the easiest waste material to dewater, is we are able to get a high % solid off our press. Staff asked if we could get more septage in to do more experimentation, also we believe to help further our testing we are doing to remove or lower the nitrogen discharge into the river. I'd like to have a public hearing and have rates go from 7.5 per gallon to 9.5 cents per gallon, basically give us the ability to have a flexible rate because if we lower the rate I don't want to all of a sudden have everyone and their brother come in the door. I want to control it, and we can set limits on the daily/monthly amounts we can take in. I've talked to several haulers who would be interested in coming to town if we reduced the rates. It might help us bring in more revenue, the actual cost calculated for this fiscal year is \$72.61/1000 gallons or 7.261cents/gallon; we charge more than what it costs us to actually put it through the whole facility. If this works well to where we can just take it in and put it in the storage tank and it continues to work well, we can possibly do this on a permanent basis for handling septage. Some sludge would still go to septage handling tank. We reserve the right to refuse a load. Some loads may have debris if a septage tank is not pumped often. In town rate will always be lower than the out of town rate

Abbondanzio: As part of monitoring process I think it is critical we monitor the odor process.

Allen makes the motion to approve Bob Trombley's request to have a public hearing in order to potentially change the septage rate between 7.5cents and 9.5 cents per gallon to be determined at the meeting on Monday, December 19, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Brief discussion about work recently done at the WPCF

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Town Administrators Report

Sign Agreement with Weston and Sampson for 21E work in Millers Falls

Allen makes the motion to approve the engineering agreement for Engineering Services between the Town of Montague and Weston and Sampson Engineers for a fee of \$3800 for Environmental Site Assessment and LSP Services in Millers Falls. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Savings from OBRA vs. SS

Abbondanzio: Carolyn and Patty Dion suggested 10 years ago where the part time people be moved from Social Security onto OBRA, as a result of this, over the last 10 years the town has saved \$163,747.65. Great job to those two employees!

Set interview dates for Staff Sergeant and Provisional Sergeant

Interviews will be scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2011. Wendy will schedule times

Use of Peskeompskut Park by Montague Business Association

Allen makes the motion to approve the request for the use of Peskeompskut Park which is the tree placed in the band shell, starting December 9, 2011 and ending December 30, 2011 for the Montague Business Association, Linda Ackerman being the contact person. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

If tree does not come down on the 30th or by the 31st of December, the Board would not be inclined to support this request next year because other groups in Town are adhering to the 21 day limit. Realizes it is an imposition on them, but it has to be adhered to.

Sign Annual License Renewals

Allen makes the motion to sign the annual license renewals for the various business in the Town of Montague as indicated on the forms provided. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Remote Participation

Abbondanzio: I have information given to me by the Town Clerk and I suggest you bring it home to review; it deals with remote participation in Selectmen's meetings. It lists the reasons, but you are going to want to think about it. Gill recently approved this.

Other

Letter handed to the Board regarding roads "To be or not to be a road". The board will review and contact other Boards to see what they have to say before commenting.

Railroad Salvage Update

Jensen: Nothing has happened other than a little bit of clean up and a little bit of repair of broken windows. Another partial wall collapsed. I've had plans/appointments to meet with Mr. Bent over the summer and none have come to fruition. I've talked to him a couple times recently, money seems to be an issue at the moment, the asbestos has been removed and I've been given a verbal confirmation from the contractor. We won't have written confirmation until there is a financial settlement between Mr. Bent and the Asbestos removal company. Right now Mr. Bent is on the hook for demolition of the building, he owns it and it's part of his responsibility as part of the court sale. We ultimately have the ability to bring him back into court. At this particular point I'm not sure what that would accomplish. He is not in tax title, but he is behind. There is a fence up for security, and the breeches have been repaired. By removing the available asbestos, he has segregated the areas in which the asbestos has been removed and standard demolition practices can take place. The portions that have collapsed must be treated as contaminated waste, a more expensive method.

The Board asks Jensen to meet up with Bent to discuss getting building caught up to where it should be.

Other

Work on the Gill Montague Bridge will begin on December 21 – January 4, 2012 and will prohibit truck traffic during this time

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye