

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

*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; Chris Curtis, Recorder,*

**Approve minutes of December 10 2012**

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2013. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

**Personnel Board and Charles Dodge, Police Chief**

**Approve Compensation Policy for Reserve Officers**

Dodge: According to Town Attorney, Reserve Officers are not covered by the union so there are no collective bargaining issues involved, and it's the sole right of the Selectboard to set any type of policy. After speaking with Carolyn Olsen, we thought it would be appropriate to have 3 steps: \$14.62, \$15.31 and \$16.00. The other thing not discussed was holiday pay. If a reserve officer works on a holiday, they will receive time and a half of their regular reserve rate. It's difficult to get these guys to work on holidays, but it gives them an incentive to work. (Minor corrections made to policy)

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the Compensation Policy for Reserve Officers as presented and edited. Policy to take effect immediately. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Request Educational Incentive for Peter Lapachinski**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the request for the Educational Incentive for Peter Lapachinski noting that he has obtained an associate's degree in criminal justice from GCC and is now eligible for 10% incentive pay and to be effective on February 17, 2013. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Other**

Dodge: In our front lobby of the Public Safety Complex we now have a med box for people to return unwanted prescription medicines. Our Community Policing Officer brought to my attention that our town is one of the few towns that doesn't have signs throughout the villages saying where the Public Safety Complex is or the Police or Fire Dept is; so I ordered signs and they will be up soon. The Fire Dept. split the cost with us.

Fairbrother would like the new information put up on our website

**Bob Escott, TF Fire Chief, John Greene MC Fire Chief, Requesting support for District Local Technical Assistance Funding to conduct a study on the regionalization of fire services within Franklin County**

Escott: I spoke with John Greene and he said Sam Lovejoy would be coming in his place, I believe he is a member of their Prudential Committee. There were discussions at the last Franklin County Chiefs meeting regarding our ability to offer the fire services throughout the county. It was brought up that there may be a possibility of funding through the FRCOG, through the District Local Technical Assistance Funding Program that a study may fit well in the other category. One of the letters I left with you, they have two items listed in the second paragraph. Number 1 says to work together to achieve and or enhance cost effective service delivery and that describes what we would be looking at doing in a study. On the other letter, there is a other planning category which is where the FRCOG said would be the good place to list as elected officials that you are in support of the Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association initiative to search for money to conduct a study. I think it would be as simple as that.

Abbondanzio: I know under consideration was using that funding to intervene in the FERC licensing or to at least have some involvement in studying how we might be involved in that process.

Escott: If we have already submitted something we can submit another project. I was hoping that the other district was going to be here so they could say whether their Prudential Committee was either for it or against it. I can't speak

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for that district, I can speak for the Turners Falls Fire District, our Prudential Committee is in favor of it and looking at any way in enhancing the way we deliver service is a good thing and hopefully the study would come out with some cost savings methods. If anything, hopefully they come out and say we are doing a good job.

Allen: I think this is an excellent suggestion that this gets studied, because it seems to me that if each community could contribute some funds towards the ladder trucks, it would help out the Towns that are housing them and servicing the entire community. I think it is long overdue.

Escott: There is not a town in the County that is not having a problem with man power. As an association, the Chiefs Association felt the money was available to conduct a study and only good can come out of the study. We can look at what is being said by an outside party and let's here what they have to say and hopefully it is something we can utilize and improve everyones service.

Discussion

Abbondanzio: If you're looking at ways of saving money, does a study like this look into things like the administrative economies to scale of not having districts, or consolidations and that sort of things.

*Fairbrother make s the motion to authorize and instruct Frank to do whatever paper work is necessary to indicate to the FRCOG Montague is interested in the District Local Technical Assistance Funding to conduct a study on the regionalization of fire services within Franklin County. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen- Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Jason Hunter, Berkshire Brewing Co., Request for 1 day Beer & Wine license at the Shea Theater on March 16, 2013**

Boutwell: I am an elected member of the Board of Selectmen. In that capacity, I have occasion to act on applications for special one-day liquor licenses. I am employed by United Liquors, a wholesale distributor of alcoholic beverages. Although my employer provides alcoholic beverages to annual liquor license holders in Town, it does not provide alcoholic beverages to holders of special one-day liquor licenses and I do not have any direct financial interest in the issuance of such licenses. Currently pending before the Board is an application for a special one-day liquor license to be used in conjunction with an event held at the Shea Theater on Avenue A, Turners Falls on March 16, 2013. My employer does not intend to provide alcoholic beverages in conjunction with said license, if issued.

This statement is to assure all members of the public that any and all decisions, approvals, or denials, that I might render concerning special one-day liquor licenses, or any other action that I may take in my capacity as a member of the Board of Selectmen with regard thereto, will be in accord with all applicable state and local laws and regulations, and will be based upon the relevant facts, the merits of the application, and the best interests of the Town.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve a special one day license to Jason Hunter, Berkshire Brewing Co. on March 16, 2013 for a beer only event at the Shea Theater from 5:00 PM to 11:30 PM. The police chief has signed off on the event. Pending proof of Liability Insurance certificate. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Cindy Tarail, Outreach and Communication Coordinator, MCTV, MCTV news shows**

Tarail: We have an idea that we would like to have 1 or 2 people at a time come into the station and we can either interview them or they can come in with a prepared statement to give people in town government a chance to talk further about issues of the day. We would like to offer anybody a forum to continue conversations that you might not be able to fully go into in a meeting. We are also thinking if we had someone from everybody in town, we could possibly have a new show every week so it would be more interesting for the viewers. SSGT Williams is going to be doing a monthly show with us; we will either interview him or have other individuals come in and cover an issue

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with him. Based on the survey we did last April, people want to see more news and more talk about what is going on in Town. I will be going before other Boards and Committees with this.

**Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, Jan Ameen, FCSWMD, Greg Roy, CDM Smith, Biosolids Handling and Disposal**

Trombley: Removal of materials that we remove from the raw waste that comes into the plant. At the end of the treatment process we have a by product that is measured in hundreds of dry tons a year that has to be dealt with. We have to deal with that in an environmental manner and according to regulatory agencies. One of the things that effects us greatly is the ability to remove solids and dispose of it in a costly fashion. There are changes in the environment of sludge disposal. The FCSWMD has worked with the Towns specifically on disposal of biosolids since roughly 1996. On December 31, 1996 the Town ceased production of sludge cake with is a more solid form of the by product, biosolids, as opposed to having it hauled away as a slushy form at a 5% solids. The difference in the budget was drastic at the time. We went from disposing it in our own town landfill which roughly cost \$32,000 at the time and the first year we disposed of it as a liquid it cost \$135,000. Over the years it has changed peaking out at \$325,637 in 2009; that is when we introduced some changes at the Treatment plant. Most of the facilities in Franklin County dispose of their sludge as a thickened sludged/liquid. There aren't a lot of outlets for that. On September 30, 2012 the Fitchburg, MA facility closes doors to outside thickened sludge. Upper Blackstone is now the only Massachusetts WWTP-Incinerator facility to accept thickened sludge. Sludge cake disposal options also of concern. Casella Organics contracted with the Franklin County Solids Waste District for sludge cake disposal. Out of state options available but distance/hauling charge an issue. Composting – an alternative option presently being investigated by Montague WWTP staff. The issues are economics, regulatory requirements, facility location & participating communities. Montague currently is handling most of the Greenfield thickened/liquid biosolids. This has been so since January 2012 and has been working out well. I would like to continue to handle outside sources of thickened sludge working within the Franklin County Solid Waste District. We would only continue to perform this activity within the operational abilities and NPDES permit limitations of the WWTP. The present cost to handle outside sources thickened biosolids is \$304 per dry ton. Through December 2012 we have received \$19,046.62 in revenue for this activity. Greenfield, MA proposal/request to the City from DPW Superintendent to install a Fournier Rotary press. Benefits we see for Montague are revenue and retained earnings which have benefited from our reduction in cost over the last couple of years. We hope to be able to continue that and use retained earning funds as a source of funds for some of the projects we have so we don't incur the debt services we normally incur and allow it to build a depreciation fund or equipment replacement fund that we haven't had in the past.

Abbondanzio: The only issue and maybe it is not even a valid one, by taking in the solids from other communities, do we run the risk like Blackstone that we have higher nitrogen levels being produced and potentially violating our NPD permit?

Trombley: There is always that concern when you bring in someone else's sledge, that you bring along other issues. Answer is yes. With the process we are presently running at the plant we have seen the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus in our effluent. Our main goal at the time was to reduce the cost to the Town for solid disposals, we've been successful with that. As part of that we started to notice that the amount of nitrogen at times to the river was substantially reduced from what it had been previously. We haven't seen any increase in that nitrogen based on the increased amounts of sludge we've gotten in and the amounts we have received from Greenfield. Blackstone has a different process, they take in a large amount of solids. We don't have any written contracts with Greenfield, I don't intend to write any contracts. If we have the capacity for it and are able to process the sludge with the press we can take it in. I'm not looking to sign any contracts. I will look for an annual report on the testing of their sludge as we have to provide to the district and to anybody else that takes our sludge so they can analyze our sludge, I would look to do the same thing. I'm not looking to any town or anybody that I am guaranteeing you capacity at the Montague plant.

Jan Ameen: We've been meeting for about a year, sometimes with Greenfield, sometimes without Greenfield reps at the table. I'm very supportive of this idea and concept, because it makes so much more sense to be shipping liquid 5 – 10 miles vs. to Upper Blackstone or Connecticut. When it can work, I'm behind it completely. The

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district is moving about 5 million gallons a year excluding Montague's cake. If you folks aren't on board, there is no sense continuing the conversation and continuing to work through the logistics of how our trucking contract is going to work with Montague being a disposal facility and how that works with the FCSWMD.

Greg Roy: Not unusual for treatment plants to have capacity to take on more liquid sludge. If there is capacity in Montague it makes all the sense in the world. More of the problem is how do you get rid of the sludge that comes off of the facility site, the cake Bob is referring to, not what is coming into the facility. On the long term do you landfill it, do you compost it, is there another facility that will deal with the cake? That's what I think the Town should be thinking of more rather than what we can take into the facility.

J. Little: We started the ball rolling quite a long time ago. We have a local farmer who has over 500 acres of land, and can get permits, and is willing to take our cakes.

Roy: There are many steps to get to that stage, there are a lot of hoops to jump through and it is complicated. That's why you don't see much of it because it is so complicated. I do think you should look at it, but also look at other options.

Trombley: The bottom line is what is the most economic method for Montague to deal with its sludge.

**Discussion**

*Allen makes the motion to continue to receive outside sources of thickened sludge working with in the FCSWMD and maintaining the \$304/per dry ton and staying with in all the permitting requirements and Bob Trombley to come back in July with report on how it is going. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

Boutwell discloses that he is vice chair of the FCSWMD and Fairbrother is the alternate member

**Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator,  
Notice of work areas for WMECO's 312 Line Project**

WMECO will be doing work from February until late fall on existing rights of way in the areas of Montague City Road, Turners Falls Road, Randall Road, Turnpike Road, Dell Street and Greenfield Road. They will be replacing some of the wood transmission structures and equipment on the structures in the WMECO right of way. The ones not being replaced will be upgraded. Will not interrupt service to homes and businesses in town.

**Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee (Walter Ramsey) of Financial Interest and Determination by Appointing Authority as Required by G. L. c 268A, §19**

*Fairbrother makes the motion that as required by G. L. c 268A, §19 the board has reviewed the particular matter in the financial interest identified by Walter Ramsey and have determined the financial interest is not so substantial to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee, Walter Ramsey. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirement  
Authorization to disperse payment to Berkshire Design Group**

*Allen makes the motion to authorize chair to sign the form authorizing disbursement #1for Unity Park Phase II Improvements Project for a total of \$2,600.00. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Request from Sheriffs Dept. to waive permit fees for work being done at Kennel at landfill**

*Allen makes the motion to waive the fee for the FC Regional Dog Kennel project off of Sandy Lane, building, electrical and plumbing permit fees to be waived. Seconded by Fairbrother approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

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**Other**

- Mass. Cultural Council announced Montague was approved for \$18,000 Adams Art Grant Program for 6 months.

**Request for use of Peskeompskut Park on May 25, 2013 by Sarah Fregosi & Philip Harrington**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the use of Peskeompskut Park, the Band Shell area to Sarah Fregosi and Philip Harrington on May 25, 2013 from 3 – 5 pm, provided they pay the license fee. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen- Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

*Fairbrother makes the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 PM, under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Litigation, Erving – Montague Sewer Agreement. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

Boutwell as Chair declares this will have a detrimental effect on the Town if it was discussed in open session.