

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, November 25, 2013**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson; Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz;

Meeting being Taped

Approve minutes of October 15, 21, 28, November 4, 18, 2013,
Not available at this time

Tammy Berard, Millers Pub

Boutwell recuses himself from this portion of the meeting

Berard wants to do a Sunday brunch to try something new

J. Golrick: The law is MGL 138, section 33B, it says 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, but it also says the local licensing authority can do that if the Town has accepted this law. Further 138, 16c, I have a problem with the establishment anyhow because it is within 500 feet of an active church, which is against this law and further how much do you guys want to encourage alcohol in Millers? How many alcohol situations do we have to have in Millers

Amend on premise Beer and Wine License to allow the serving time on Sundays to be changed "from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m." to "from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m."

Nelson makes the motion to allow Tammy Berard of the Millers Pub to change serving time on Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m." to "from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m." effective November 26, 2013. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Abstained from the meeting

Ellen Spring, Skate Park Committee, Updates on Financial Planning, Fundraising, and redesign revision status

Raised over \$3000 in the month of October, Jakes Tavern did a fundraiser and exceeded their expectations. Talked about scheduling of grants, web site is up and running, can make donation from the web site. Park grants are a program that reimburses the town 68 – 70% of what is spent on the program. Have to put money up front but the State pays you back. Need \$250,000 - \$350,000. Will be scheduling a meeting with architect, have a couple of good strategies, feel like could make small changes that could be made that would not make it less inviting but would cut down on the costs.

Town Administrators Report, Votes may be taken

Letter from Turners Falls Fire District re: disbursement of funds by the Hampshire Insurance Trust

Abbondanzio: This is regarding a letter received from the Turners Falls Fire District and the letter deals with reimbursement the town has received on a somewhat regular basis from the Hampshire Insurance Trust. We also have the Fire Districts Health insurance and there are a number of people on that. It works by us taking in the fire districts members payments and pay the health trust. The reimbursements have come back on the medicare part D, which is an alternative prescription drug plan, reimbursements that are distributed by the Hampshire Health trust. The District feels they are entitled to a proportional share of those reimbursements that come back on Medicare Part D. The amount they are claiming was based on roughly \$44,000 of the total; and I think Patty Dion determined based on that number there would be just under \$5,000 they would be entitled to for that part. We recently received another payment after this letter and received an additional \$52,000 so there is a reimbursement due on that for roughly \$5,500. At stake here is about \$10,370 in reimbursements that they would be entitled to. We would have to go to Town meeting to get that appropriation, because in effect it is a prior year bill. In discussing this letter with Patty Dion and Carolyn Olsen, the feeling was we have handled their health insurance for a long time without any compensation, if we are going to be doing reimbursement, maybe they should be doing it for their own people.

Fairbrother feels we should divest ourselves and move forward with them doing their own insurance or charge them an administrative fee for handling the insurance.

It is suggested representatives from the TF Fire District come to a future meeting to discuss then it can be put on a STM once all the information is available

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Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Issues related to the Montague Dog Kennel
Dick Clough, Chip Dodge, Sherriff Chris Donelan, Leslee Colucci

Donelan: We recently had a meeting at the Sheriff's Office to talk about our long term vision for the Regional Kennel, the way it is working now and where we would like to go with it in the future. The Sheriff's office has already taken steps and made additional investments beyond what we had originally anticipated because of the success of the kennel. It seems like we are going in the direction of increased investment so I wanted to have conversation with you about your commitment to continuing this, particularly with your role as a host community. The two items in the letter I sent you we are most concerned with is extending the MOU between the Sheriff's Office and the Town making a long term agreement and secondarily giving us the opportunity to expand within the foot print of the existing building using space that is currently being used as a garage. The kennel has been in operation for about 1-1/2 years.

Leslee: In the 1-1/2 year period 300 dogs have gone through there, 125 dogs were adopted, the remaining went back to their owners. We currently have 36 volunteers, most are from Montague

Donelen: 14 towns have now signed on to this contract for services.

Leslee: In the second bay, we are hoping to have a Vet Tech or vet area to do cleaning and vaccinating. This way we could hire a person part time rather than us drive to a clinic. We have had up to 20 dogs there and our inside kennels hold 12, so we've been pretty busy

Abbondanzio: Biggest issue is we have an Industrial Park that is currently in design for that site. We started off with a 90 acre park and now because of priority habitat issues we are down to 35 acres and that assumes we are going to be moving some highway related facilities, and unfortunately the shelter would not fit into that plan. We have a 1 – 5 year horizon for putting that Industrial Park into construction. That is the Town's top priority and I see that as a conflict. The Town Planner has recommended not putting additional investments into the kennel building because of the conflict with the Industrial Park. I think it would be misleading and unfair to encourage you to make a commitment that we will not be able to honor in the future.

Fairbrother: So your saying according to the current plan which has already suffered some losses for one reason or another, that building would literally be in the way, physically? (Answer is Yes, down the road)

Clough: Right now we are housing a \$51,000 brand new chipper, it also houses the electrical panel which is to the fuel pumps which we have to have access to for our portable generator in case of an emergency. That is the highway departments concerns. We have limited space for storage.

Abbondanzio: That is the current needs. We are talking about having to move that facility about concurrently developing a new Town garage to house equipment. This is a move of town facilities away from the landfill site because it is so limited in size and getting grant money to go with the Industrial Park. The dog kennel is not part of the plans for that site.

Donelen: This is not news to me. When we started this project 2 years ago, the same thing was said that the Town hopes to someday have an Industrial park down there and if they do that this building will probably be in the way. These things can take many years to happen even when you are working vigorously to make them happen. We made the decision to invest in the building knowing this was on the table, this process is very cumbersome and difficult and I don't see that the Town has made a lot of progress in starting an Industrial Park. I don't know if in the next year or 2 or 3 years they would be ready to start tearing buildings down. I would be willing to look at the costs and invest in the space even knowing that 3 years from now you might be putting an industrial park in. It is worth it to me for 3 years to have that space, then we would take on the task of trying to find another location to move the kennel to.

Discussion

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Dodge would like to see the shelter to stay in Town as long as it can.

Nelson makes the motion to continue the lease with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the dog kennel on Sandy Lane until December 31, 2015 with the possibility of renewal for an unspecified time. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye

Will wait to hear about use of second bay

Letter of Commendation from Chief Dodge regarding incident on 11/6/13

Dodge read letter of commendation into the record regarding incident on 11/6/13. The way it was handled by the Montague police was nothing but professional. As a result of the incident, I felt some of the officers and agencies involved deserved recognition. Officer Miner and Officer Ruddock, Cindy Hunter, Det. Dobosz, Sgt. Bonnett, Patrolman Peter Lapachinski, Patrolman James Deery and Patrolman Josh Hoffman, Greenfield, Deerfield and Erving Police all assisted with the incident, Montague Highway Dept., WMECO, Baystate Ambulance, Mass. State Police, Chief Dodge sends thanks to all

Sign Authorization to Disburse #7, Unity Park Phase Two Improvements Project, \$2,695.00

This will close out current contractors work

Nelson makes the motion to authorize disbursement # 7, Invoice # 1.2012.107-7 and 1.2012.107-8 Unity Park Phase Two Improvement Project in the amount of \$2,695 to Berkshire Design Group. Seconded by Boutwell approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Sign letter re: response to finding, Montague FY2011 CDF1 Grant #023

This is not a town issue, it is a housing authority issue, they will be taking care of this internally

Nelson makes the motion authorize the Chair to sign letter to Mr. Sagenthanler who is the DHCD Community Development Manager as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirement

Nelson makes the motion to send the letter to President Obama regarding Clean Energy as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Nelson makes the motion at 8:10 PM to go into Executive Session under G.L. c 30A, Section 21 (a)(1) to discuss possible disciplinary action against an employee, votes may be taken. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Nelson – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye.