

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, May 12, 2014**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson (arrives at 7:02 PM); Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz;

Approve Minutes of April 7, 14, 22 and May 5, 2014, if available

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Absent

Montague Community Cable, Inc., Access Provider Contract Discussion, Mike Langknecht, MCCI President, Dean Garvin, Station Manager

Langknecht reads letter into the record regarding entering into a new access provider contract

G. Earls, Co-Chair CAC: We have had recent discussions about the apparent snafu that's going on and how we might be able to provide a compromise. The suggestion from the CAC is the contract be extended through the end of the current calendar year and a new RFP be presented by MCCI on an exclusive one shot deal. We won't take the RFP out to the public because we might have to do that depending on how Town Counsel reads the contract. So in order to avoid that, this is what we are suggesting. (Eileen Dowd is in agreement with G. Earls)

Langknecht: My concern is whether or not that would trigger the necessity under 30B which might require the town put out an RFP for that. While the renewal clause does stipulate that an automatic renewal would require a one year's notice, there is nothing that says the Selectboard can't renew the contract with MCCI under other circumstances if it so chooses. We are trying to find a way to minimize the possibility of undo complication at the same time without closing any doors to further action. We have not been made aware by the CAC or Selectboard that there were issues. If the Board were to accept our proposal and the annual review went in such a way that the Board wasn't satisfied and the CAC made a recommendation to the Board you could still then go out and do an RFP. Which would achieve the same end, which is to make sure service is uninterrupted and everyone's interests are covered.

Further discussion about an RFP and a contract

Earls: We are the co-chairs, I guess you would say we made an executive decision to put the proposal forward.

Fairbrother: I think we need to have a new temporary contract ready to go for next Tuesday that goes until the end of the Calendar year. Even if it's not legally required, this Town should issue a new RFP and have that process done by fall. I want the RFP to go out to the world. I think there have been a number of issues, not all MCCI's fault. Until fairly recently the CAC wasn't doing it's job and that caused MCCI not to be doing their job. I think the best way to start clean and fresh is to just offer a new RFP (old one just needs updating) . Putting out an RFP to the world, MCCI essentially will answer what they would as part of the review process. In the interest in making the best decision for the Town of Montague, I think the RFP should go out to the world, and I would suspect MCCI will get it.

Earls: Seems like the most logical route to go.

Brief discussion about MCCI and the Cumberland Farms building

Nelson makes the motion to extend cable contract for MCCI through December 31, 2014 pending review of the final document at the next Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye

Gregory Garrison, Northampton Cycling Club, Use of Public Property: Northampton Annual Cycling Criterion Race. Industrial Blvd, Turners Falls on June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 2014

Boutwell makes the motion to allow Gregory Garrison, Northampton Cycling Club, Use of Public Property: Northampton Annual Cycling Criterion Race. Industrial Blvd, Turners Falls on June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 2014,

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from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM signed off by Chief Dodge and insurance certificates have been provided. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye

Bruce Hunter, HRH Infrastructure Coordinator, Approve Certificate of Substantial Completion for Unity Park Phase 2.2, Turners Falls, contractor: Taylor Davis Landscaping Co., Inc.

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion for Unity Park Phase 2.2, to Taylor Davis Landscaping Co., Inc. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye

**Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator, Votes may be taken
19 Diagonal parking spaces on Avenue A across from the Library**

Abbondanzio: After the public hearing held last week about the 7th Street parking desire was expressed by the Board to find additional parking overall on Avenue A mainly for the Library. Tom and Chip met and were able to find 19 spaces across from the library if you did diagonal parking. The Town Planner has weighed in on this and the plan you have shows one of the suggestions that was in the HUD livability study. The planner wanted to make sure certain issues were addressed as well as accommodations for the FRTA bus stop and crossing to the war memorial. He also suggested pavers on the grass strip between the proposed parking and the sidewalk to encourage users to utilize the crosswalks and sidewalks rather than J walk across the Avenue. It looks like you should be able to get about 15 spaces.

Tom would like to go back and look at diagonal parking in front of the Library side as sight distance is a concern going in/out of Food City. Tom will develop a plan and come back with his suggestions.

Street Light Outages in Town

TF fire district deals with this in town and has taken longer to get utilities to weigh in

This is dealt with by the Turners Falls Fire District

Boutwell asked that this be put on the agenda as he has two street lights out on his street. You just need to notify WMECO or the Water Department

Use of Peskeompskut Park: Montague Community Band, Summer Concerts on June 9 and 23; July 7 and 21, 2014

Nelson make the motion to approve use of the band shell on June 9, 23, July 7 and 21, 2014 at Peskeompskut Park to the Montague Community Band, set up at 6:30 PM, with event starting at 7:00 PM, clean up being over by 8:45 PM with approximately 40 - 50 people taking part in the event, they are covered under the Town's insurance and the Police Chief has signed off on this. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye

License to Place Sign at Peskeompskut Park for band concerts day before each concert to be held on June 9 and 23; July 7 and 21, 2014

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the use of a small A frame sandwich board sign to the Montague Community Band to set up and advertisement sign prior to each of their concert events on June 8 - 9, June 22 - 23, July 6 - 7 and July 20 - 21, 2014. Seconded by Boutwell approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye

Topics not anticipated in 48 hours posting

Abbondanzio: Letter to Senator Brewer, Senate Ways and Means Committee. This deals with the House bill 38-72 that would rectify the inequity borne by residents of the Town of Montague by transferring employees of the FRCOG from the Franklin Regional Retirement System to the Massachusetts State Retirement System saving the Town a lot of money and this is a letter supporting this.

Boutwell makes the motion to approve and sign the letter regarding H3-872 an act transferring employees of the FRCOG Franklin Regional Retirement System to the Massachusetts State Retirement System. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye

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*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously.
Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*