

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, March 16, 2015**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson (arrives late at 7:10 PM); Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio , Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz

Nelson makes the motion to appoint Mark Fairbrother as acting Chair until Mr. Boutwell arrives. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Approve minutes of March 9, 2015

Minutes not available at this time

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment.

None at this time

Jon Dobosz, Park, Director Parks & Recreation

Montague Center Play Structure Work Bee, May 9, 2015, 9:00 AM

Dobosz announces there will be a work bee on May 9, 2015 at 9:00 AM at the old Montague Center School to remove the play structure that is there. It will need to be dismantled and moved to the old blacksmith shop located at the Montague Center playground. It is possible that some large beams will need to be purchased to put the structure back together. Further details to follow. Call Park and Rec for further information

Jeff Singleton, FRTA March Advisory Meeting

Singleton: The FRTA will be having a board meeting later this month and I wanted to let you know what I want to say. I want to discuss the following items: at the FRTA's March meeting: 1) Cut Route 23 fare to \$1.50 by July 1: This may require discussion with Montague Selectboard and Fin Com prior to annual meeting. Needs impact on assessment. 2) Introduce proposed changes in Montague FRTA routes: This will probably not be on table until state service analysis but would like to give board and especially impacted towns a "heads up."; 3) Estimate of cost of weekend service: ½ day – probably Saturday. Cost to member towns, required increase in state/federal aid; 4) Format for FY 16 budget for presentation to town committees; 5) Continued discussion of how to increase ridership: A subcommittee? FRCOG?; 6) Industrial park (s) shuttle possibilities and process. 7) More frequent board meetings. Increase attendance and oversight

Kathleen Lynch

Request to be appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee

Nelson: I have no problem with it, the only big concern I have is the obvious conflict of interest.

Lynch: In terms of conflict of interest, because my spouse works for the local access center, I would assume any votes that deal directly with personnel, I think it would be better to air on the side of caution. I think the scope of the work the CAC is supposed to cover is beyond that.

Fairbrother: CAC exists for two reasons, to oversee Comcast contract with the Town and the public access provider MCCI. Ms. Lynch has a conflict with both, because her husband is involved with both. My reading of the Mass. Conflict of Interest Law is this is a No No.

Nelson: It is a no no for her to be a voting member, to take votes that specifically apply to it, but couldn't she be on the Board to offer guidance, support, ideas and thoughts?

Lynch feels there are two ways to deal with it, one is to ask the lawyer what the specific conflicts are and two is you could appoint me as an ex-officio member which means I don't vote, I advise, which seems to be what the Board really needs.

Abbondanzio states he did ask Counsel about the regular appointment and he did state that it was clearly a conflict of interest. The ex-officio was not discussed as a possibility

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Fairbrother: The committee is now taking much more public comment than it did, couldn't you just give the information as a public citizen?

McNamara: I'm presently on the CAC and because the CAC is an oversight committee I feel it would absolutely be a conflict of interest for Kathy to be on the committee. I do agree she is highly qualified and knowledgeable but in the case that her husband being station manager it would be a conflict of interest. Doesn't feel it would be the best idea given everything that has gone on. Feels she could help out as a citizen

Kathy: Was on past CAC board; feel like what I do for a living (run a local cable access station) and contract negotiations that the town is involved in, I just finished contract negotiations with Charter in Town where I work and feel that I can help the Town I live in because I'm a consumer here. Because I have been through this process a few times now, I feel I bring a certain amount of knowledge to the table. What you don't get at the meetings as a citizen is the paperwork, so participation is scattered and doesn't allow you to participate on the same level. Thinks if appointed as an ex-officio member then no votes are required and that should not be a conflict. Kathy will forward information from the Ethics commission to Wendy once it is available and we will go from there.

Town Administrators Report

FY15 Second half Sewer Abatement Request

Fairbrother makes the motion to abate the second half sewer bill for 5 Lyman Street, Millers Falls, abated amount \$94.62, bill abated to minimum bill of \$36.00. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Change Order #1, Insituform Technologies, LLC, DPW Sewer Lining 2014, \$25,895.00

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the change order #1, Insituform Technologies, LLC, DPW Sewer Lining 2014 in the amount of \$25,895. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye

Appointment to Broadband Committee: Rob Steinberg until June 30, 2015

Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Rob Steinberg to the Broadband Committee until June 30, 2015. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Other

Abbondanzio announces we are looking for another member to be appointed to the GMTA.

Nelson announces the Town Clerk is looking for registered voters to run for Town Meeting Members in all precincts.

Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, the Board will discuss an employee's request for a leave of absence due to the employee's physical condition.

Nelson makes the motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 PM as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, the Board will discuss an employee's request for a leave of absence due to the employee's physical condition. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Boutwell- Aye, Nelson – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye