

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, November 27, 2017**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

Approve Selectmen minutes of November 20, 2017

Nelson makes the motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2017 as presented. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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.

Bob McDonald, WPCF Superintendent

Sign Application for Solar Array Funding with Mass. CEC \$200,000

Discussion

- McDonald presented part of the feasibility study that was put together by JK Muir regarding a 200-kilowatt solar array, which would be located to the left of the administrative building, closer to the road, away from the river.
- Annual smart incentives at the estimated power consumption is about \$96,000.
- Payback is approximately 3.9 years for the solar array, with us going for a \$150,000 GAP II Funding Grant. Deadline is November 30.
- Additional funding will be looked into with USDA and Green Communities.
- The solar array will be Town-owned.
- The operation and maintenance will cost about \$5,000 a year.
- Ellis noted that this study was done with funding from the Mass Energy Technical Assistance Grant that McDonald and Ramsey collaborated on this past summer.
- Nelson abstained from this discussion as his family has property that abuts the treatment plant.

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Certificate of Application for the Montague Wastewater Pollution Control Facility in the amount of \$200,000. Kuklewicz seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Abstain

Request Uniform Allowance, \$350

Nelson makes the motion to allow a uniform allowance of \$350 to the WPCF Superintendent. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Request Cell Phone Stipend

Nelson makes the motion to approve the cell phone stipend request for the WPCF Superintendent in the amount of \$5.77/week. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Other

- McDonald informed the Board that there will be a meeting on December 11th to discuss projects at the treatment plant.
- McDonald sent a letter to DEP about the process change that we are currently making to make the plant run more safely and efficiently.

Ken McCance, Yolon Energy, Consider and Execute an Agreement for Natural Gas Purchasing

- According to McCance, the contract that the Town signed with Great Eastern Energy takes effect this November at an 8.35 cents per kilowatt hour rate. National Grid got a 36% rate increase for their winter rates. Unitil got about a 24%. Natural gas is used to generate over half of the electricity in New England. There are only three supply companies that supply this end of Massachusetts, and Direct Energy has the best rates.

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Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a contract tomorrow with Direct Energy for a 36-month contract for natural gas. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Appoint Jeri Moran, interim Library Trustee until May 21, 2017

Nelson makes the motion to appoint Jeri Moran as the interim Library Trustee until May 21, 2017. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Michael Nelson, GFF/Pumpkinfest

Change set-up time of GFF/Pumpkinfest to 10:00 AM (from 11:00 AM) on 10/20/18

- *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the change of time for the Great Falls Festival, formerly known as Pumpkinfest, to Michael Nelson. The change of time will go from closing of the avenue and part of 3rd Street from 11:00 AM to 10:00 AM on October 20th, 2018. Kuklewicz seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Nelson - Abstain*
- Nelson will notify all businesses on Avenue A between 1st and 7th, as well as on 3rd Street of the set-up time change.

Melissa Winters, Connecticut River Liquors

Request for Off-Premises (M.G.L. c.138, §15) to remain open until 11:30 PM on December 31, 2017, New Year's Eve

- *Nelson makes the motion to allow a blanket permit for Off-Premise sales under M.G.L. c.138, §15) to allow any folks with the Off-Premise license to be open until 11:30 PM on New Year's Eve, December 31st, 2017, as long as they contact the Selectboard's Office and notify us. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Bogusz will send a memo to the Police Department.

Town Administrator's Report

Budget Season Preview

Ellis: We are now entering into budget season. We are going to be requesting that all of the Department Heads get their budgets in for January 3rd. The budget message will be delivered by the Finance Committee on Wednesday. Also on that day, the Board and the Capital Improvements Committee will hear a presentation from the DPW Highway Garage. Parts of the process have been overhauled: There will be new capital items request forms and special article request forms that are more relevant and easy to complete, and that provide decision-makers so that the Capital Improvements Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Selectboard will have more information so that there are not so many obvious questions left unanswered. I will be meeting with all of the Department Leaders next Tuesday to go over the new things. Large budget increases are not expected.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting period

- Ellis thanked the Board for their patience with him as he's gone through his learning curve in his first year as Town Administrator.
- The winter parking ban begins on December 1st and runs through April 1st; no on-street parking from 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM. This will be put on the website.

Upcoming Events

Effective December 4, 2017 Thursday recycling and trash collection day will be changed to Friday for the following streets: Unity Street from 1st Street to Millers Falls Road, Spring Street, Prospect Street, Central Street, Chestnut Lane, Park Street, Maple Street, Pleasant Street, Chestnut Street, Goddard Avenue, Riverside Drive, Grove Street, Hillside Avenue, Worcester Avenue, Broadview Heights, Wrightson Avenue, and Madison Avenue.

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Montague Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

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Nelson makes the motion to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Documents and Exhibits:

- Minutes of November 20, 2017
- Application for Solar Array Funding with Mass. CEC \$200,000
- Request for WPCF Superintendent Uniform Allowance, \$350
- Request for WPCF Superintendent Cell Phone Stipend
- Execute an agreement for natural gas purchasing, Ken McCance, Yolon Energy
- Appointment form: Jeri Moran, interim Library Trustee until May 21, 2017
- Michael Nelson, GFF/Pumpkinfest request to Change set up time of GFF/Pumpkinfest to 10:00 AM (from 11:00 AM) on 10/20/18
- Melissa Winters, Connecticut River Liquors, Request for Off-Premises (M.G.L. c.138, §15) to remain open until 11:30 PM on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2017, New Year's Eve