

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

4:02 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Barbara Kuklweicz, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper.

Guests: Brian Dolan, Sarah Pearson, David Detmold, members of the Skatepark Committee.

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. Meeting Called to Order: 4:02 p.m.

2. 2015 Operating & Capital Budgets

Jon is proposing an increase in the operating budget for the part-time temp line item to reflect an anticipated increase in minimum wage. At the moment it is unknown what the increase will be but indications show that the state house will increase minimum wage from \$12.00 - \$12.50/hr by 2018. So for FY 15' it is assumed minimum wage will increase by a dollar an hour. The increase reflects the 50/50 split between our operating and revolving portions of the budget. Linda Ackerman asked if these budgets had gone before the town's committees. Jon informed the committee that both the operating and capital budgets will be submitted January 6, 2014 to Frank and then to the Finance Committee sometime in January/February. Jon let the commission know that the narrative portion of operating budget has expanded because of the importance of the need for further explanation of each department and how they function.

Motion: Linda Ackerman makes a motion to submit the budgets. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0

3. Capital Projects Scheduled for 2015

Jon has only the Skate Park on this item at this time. Jon doesn't have an estimate but he, Walter and the Skate Park Committee will be working towards this goal. He feels it could be between \$250,000-\$400,000. The department will be applying for the PARC grant, which is due beginning of July. The Skate Park Committee plans on meeting with the landscape architect to try to simplify the design. They are working on the 30% local match; having held raffles, and sent out fund appeals. They have raised \$6250.00 and money is coming in daily from the fund appeal. They are currently writing a grant to the Tony Hawk Foundation that they feel very positive about. The local Elks club has said that they would submit a grant for the skate park for \$2000. After the first of the year, the committee plan on meeting with Peter Wells from Berkshire Design Group to do a cost benefit analysis as to whether its worth changing the existing plan. The Skate Park Committee stated they are looking in to ways to bring the cost down, such a contacting locate companies for help. One example given was contacting local landscapers for trees. Jon mentioned that a woman had contacted him wanting to donate trees in memory of her husband. Jon said he would follow up with this. The commission let the Skate Park

Committee know they support them and their money raising efforts. The next step is to place a monetary figure on this and the Park and Recreation Department submit this as a capital project on January 6. The group would then meet with the Finance Committee sometime in January or February.

Motion: Linda Ackerman makes a motion that the Skate Park Project be a capital improvements item for FY 15'. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0

4. Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.