

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 3, 2008
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

Tape #44-08

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Allen Ross, Patricia Pruitt; Patricia Allen, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz; Ray Zukowski, Chief of Police; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; David Detmold, Montague Reporter, Hugh Massey, WHAI

Approve minutes of Prior Meeting – None Available at this time

Faith Adams – Salvation Army Request to Ring the “Red Kettle”

I'm the Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Montague and we're raising money for the Red Kettle which all the money goes back to Montague citizens. I would like the Board if we can get a permit to ring tomorrow, election day at either Hillcrest Elementary School or at the Senior Center between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We would also like to ring on Avenue A during November and December. The Board felt that it was not appropriate to be done during voting, added congestion would be counter productive.

Pruitt makes the motion to approve the Salvation Army's fund drive to take place during November and December along Avenue A, either in front of Subway or at the Salvation Army Store. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye.

Town Administrator Report

Presentation on Performance Contracting by Roland Butze, Siemens Building Technologies, Inc.

Abbondanzio: Mr. Butzke is here from Siemens Building Technologies to talk about a project we have ongoing through the FRCOG to identify energy savings and potentially save some money down the road in town buildings.

Butzke: Performance Contracting as Frank introduced gives us an opportunity to find energy savings and improve infrastructure, it is a process that has been in place for a number of years, a number of communities have taken advantage of this in the Commonwealth and New England. The FRCOG opportunity started with Bill Grand who had the vision to create an opportunity for all the FRCOG communities and Regional School Districts to get together and provide an economy scale for energy service companies and made it all happen and put the RFQ out. He has since retired and Bob Dean took over the project and has seen it through to fruition. There was an RFQ done and Siemens won it. This is a straight forward concept, there is energy savings within the existing infrastructure. There is technology improvements that provide that energy savings; there is outdated infrastructure where the capital may not be available to make the improvements, the energy service company comes in and breaks that cycle. We put the newer technology in or refine the existing technology and therefore get the energy savings for it. The energy savings is used to pay for those upgrades and any residual energy savings in the community. Butzke goes over handout (see attached). Performance Contracting provides energy efficient upgrades at no up front costs. The Preliminary evaluation should be done and the board will gather more information as we go along. There will be a follow up meeting after the preliminary audit which is done at no charge. Once they are on site the report would be done in 30 days.

Pole Location Hearing - Pole to provide electric service to new public safety facility on Turnpike Road.

Pat Kabera, WMECO: We are requesting permission to set a new pole between 2 existing poles to provide service for the Montague Safety Complex.

Pruitt makes the motion to authorize the installation of a new pole at the police station in the process of being built as indicated on Turnpike road, in accordance with the plan marked #6F810531. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye

Granting of Injured on Duty Status for Sergeant Richard Suchanek, October 17, 2008

Pruitt makes the motion to approve a designation of injured on duty for Sgt. Richard Suchanek who was injured on October 17, 2008. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross, - Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Bar Closing Hours

Discussion about what time employees should be off premises of bars.

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Pruitt makes a motion to amend our final closing time for staff and cleaning up activities at bars to 1 hour after the stop of alcohol service. If on certain special occasions people expect to need more time that they would be obligated to contact the Police Department in advance. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye.

Staff off premise within 1 hour to be listed on the licenses

Request from “The Rendezvous” for late openings

Zukowski does not feel late openings are a good thing, it just rushes people into Town from other bars to get their last drink. We don't have the staffing to support this. This would set a precedence. He does not have a problem with the bars staying open until 2:00 AM on New Years Eve.

Pruitt makes the motion to continue the present policy of not serving alcohol after 1:00 A.M except that New Years Eve is the only time bars can stay open until 2:00 AM. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Heritage Landscape Inventory Program Grant Update

Abbondanzio: DCR informed the Town we did not receive the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program Grant. There were 18 municipalities that applied, and they gave 11 grants. There was a statement listed on how we can improve the grant.

Scheduling of School District Meeting – November 18th at 6:30 p.m. and Need to Elect a Moderator.

A letter was received announcing this date. On Wednesday the Towns of Gill and Montague Selectboards will meet to select a moderator.

Chapter 40B Inventory Correction

Every year we are notified of the 40B inventory and this year we dropped down to 8%. Park Villa had been taken off but it has been added back on and we will be over the 10% threshold.

Updates

- Native American Heritage Meeting – November 5, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. will be held in town Hall. Representatives from the Native tribes and John Anctil will be present
- Franklin County Home Care Elder Home Repair Program Meeting – November 5, 2008 (2 p.m.) this will be a brainstorming session, to be held in Town Hall. They are trying to develop a program that will enable elderly people to remain in their homes by getting assistance for various home repair projects.
- Selectmen/Finance Committee/School Committee Budget Meeting – November 5, 2008 (5 p.m.) this is to be joint between Montague and Gill along with some school reps.
- Town accountant requests a vote be taken to accept money for sport signs.
Pruitt makes the motion to allow the town to receive donations for the creation of other signs recognizing achievements by our sports teams for state championships. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye.
- Essay contest for 6th graders for all communities around the state. Ross did a presentation at the middle school today and will do one tomorrow in Gill

A response from the State Auditors Office, Division of Local Mandates has been received. A couple of months ago we requested a determination from the State Auditors Office, Division of Local Mandates asking whether Section 16B was a 1/12 budget process which resulted in the District Budget we presently cannot afford violated provisions of the local mandate law, Chapter 29, Section 27C. We also met with representatives of the Local Mandate Division

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in Boston and basically what the division has decided is the local mandates law does not apply in this case because the costs at issue are the result of a local option law whereby the municipal members of a regional school district vote to accept and abide by the provisions of G.L. c71 §§16 – 16I and the specific regional school district agreement written for the communities joining a given district. By adopting the school district law, Chapter 71 we bought into any changes in that law.

Allen feels what ever can be done to bring this information to the State needs to be done.

Allen: I received a form letter from the Franklin Regional Planning Board asking that if I couldn't attend meetings could we appoint someone else. I would like suggest we ask the Planning Board if there is someone who could go.

Allen: Congratulations to Robin Sherman for her new position as Executive Director at the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority.

A Flu Clinic is to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School for Gill, Montague, Erving and Wendell residents, you must be 18 and over and it is free.

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt –Aye.