

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, February 9, 2009
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

Tape #05-09

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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 (Absent); Hugh Massey, WHAI; David Detmold, Montague Reporter

Approve minutes of February 2, 2009

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Ross takes a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Bruce Van Boeckel who passed away recently. There will be a memorial on Sunday and his lost will be felt by a lot of people.

Bob Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, Personnel

Ross: There is the desire to fill a position at the WPCF with a full time employee

Abbondanzio: When we spoke about this a while back, I think the understanding was that this was going to be posted in house and if there was a qualified person from the union, then that person could be hired without going to an outside ad. It turned out we didn't have anyone who is an employee or is in the union at the moment apply for that job, so we technically have to advertise it. This would require us to extend the temporary person they have until we are in a position to make a decision on that.

Allen: The person is not in the union, I'm not saying he isn't qualified or wouldn't be a good person, but I think we run the risk of getting into trouble with the union if we don't follow the proper procedures. At this point we have to advertise for it.

Trombley: We did follow union procedures, and as far as the union contract itself goes, that is where the requirement for posting stops. Whether or not we go to the street is your jurisdiction, not mine. I talked to the Town Attorney previously and I did ask the question about the posting. I did ask if the gentleman in question (who is temporarily working at the plant) could apply at this time or do we have to wait, and he said he could apply at any time. As far as the hard and fast requirement to go to the street, I don't know, I didn't ask that question. If that is what we have to do, that is what we have to do.

Abbondanzio: I think it would make sense to advertise and get a good field of people to apply for the job. I think there was some discussion by the Board at one of the meetings that it was suggested that we would go outside.

Allen: That is our procedure that is what we always do.

Pruitt makes the motion to extend the temporary appointment of Mike Little until March 14, 2009 in his present position. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye

**Town Administrators Report
Sign Annual report to ABCC**

Pruitt makes the motion to sign the annual report to the ABCC and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Unity Park Rehabilitation Planning Committee

Abbondanzio reads notice into record: Unity Park Rehabilitation Planning Committee, Looking for three Montague residents to become members of the planning committee. Responsibilities include; 1. Working with the current Parks & Recreation Commission in formulating a final design plan relative to Unity Park. Committee members will discuss and provide input on the following; - Continuation of Master Plan, which includes; 2 meetings and 1 public presentation – starts in February of '09 and ends June of 2010. - When the grant is awarded, includes; a total of 3 meetings from September of 2009 to December of 2009, with a public hearing in January 2010. 2. Meetings will be structured in the following manner (but may be modified due to unforeseen circumstances) a. Time of Day; primarily held in the evening, and will typically last 1 - 1 1/2 hours in duration. c. Planned start: February of

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2009 d. Location: Primarily held at the Unity Park Field house, 56 First Street in Turners Falls. e. Please note: All meetings are open to the general public.

Eminent Domain, Prospect Street Bridge

Abbondanzio: As you remember in January 2008 Town Meeting voted to authorize the Board to acquire by gift, purchase or take by eminent domain under the authority of Chapter 79, any permanent or temporary easements required to repair or replace the Prospect Street Bridge. You have the article and the second article that appropriated \$2,000 for the purpose of performing appraisals or any acquisition costs associated with the takings. We have plans that have been drafted by the engineering consultant that was working for Mass. Highway Dept. I have the legal paper work that was drafted by Town Counsel that includes the order of taking for the Prospect Street over Spring Street. Temporary Easements for grading shown as "Parcel 2-ITE" and "Parcel 3-TE" on plan entitled Temporary Easements for grading shown as "Parcel 2-1TE" and "Parcel 3-TE" on plan entitled "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Highway Department Plan of Prospect Street Over Spring Street in the Town of Montague, Franklin County"; Temporary Construction Easement shown as "Parcel 4-TCE" on said Plan; and Permanent Easements shown as "Parcel 1-PW", "Parcel 5-PW", "Parcel 6-PW", "Parcel 7-PW" and "Parcel 8-PW" on said Plan.

Pruitt makes the motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign the order of taking for the Prospect Street over Spring Street Bridge Project, for temporary and permanent easements as shown on Project File No. 603135. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruit – Aye, Ross – Aye

Pruitt informs the Board how the bridge repairs will "free up" the neighborhood.

Budget Update

Abbondanzio: We didn't have the staff meeting last week, we are having it tomorrow to talk about how we can deal with the budget deficit which is very significant for 2010. Frank will keep the Board updated with information as it comes in. The legislation that deal with the Hotel and Food tax are huge in the case of Montague for FY2010 means the difference of filling the hole that is \$165,000 or one that is \$30,000. There are other legislation that deals with the taxing of poles and wires that could help us too. The legislature is currently reorganizing and it is frustrating that nothing is happening.

Brief discussion about the lottery tax

Other

Ralph Kimball, 14 Avenue C: Knows there has been a lot of discussion about recyclables and has a suggestion that might save the Town a little bit of money. Thinks recycling pickup should go to every other week.

Mr. Kimball is informed that this thought is being explored and will be discussed further at a hearing on February 23rd about recycling and trash.

Pruitt makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Allen,, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruit – Aye, Ross - Aye