

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, September 20, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Patricia Allen, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI,

Allen announces meeting being taped

Allen thanks everyone for their help with the SoapBox Derby as it was a great success and everyone is looking forward to next year's event.

Approve Minutes of August, 30 and September 7, 2010 if available

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of August 30, 2010. Seconded by Boutwell, approved. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye Allen – Abstained as she was absent

Discuss Continuation of Four Day Work Week

Abbondanzio: I recommend we continue the four day work week and the service part of this is the most important part and the strongest argument for continuing it. Started back in August 2008, believes it's an effective way to increase service to the public, save on energy costs, and increase work and productivity. My conclusion on the comments received back from Town Departments (copies provided) is the general feedback from the public is good and it provides high level of service without additional costs. There is a total of 7 extra hours during the week that town hall is open. Assessors have had a big demand for appointments after 4:30, Tax Collector and Town Clerks Office has a lot of foot traffic during the end of the day. Going back to 5 days would constitute a loss of service to the general public. Not exactly sure on energy reduction costs, thinking approximately 15% savings. There will be a significant savings by installing the gas boiler and new electrical fixtures.

Bergeron: We start at 6:00 a.m. and a lot of contractors starts early which allows them to get into our office early for permits. As a work crew, going into areas outside of Turners Falls, this allows more projects to get done in the day. Would ask to be allowed to stay on 4 day work week during April to November and go back to 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during the winter.

Boutwell stated how he sees this as a benefit for some as they do not have to drive into work long distances 5 days a week and saving gas money, going greener.

Fairbrother: I never liked having Town Hall closed on Fridays, and doesn't like it when there is a Monday holiday which makes it a three-day week. On the other hand, likes town hall being open later hours. Is willing to go along with it for another year.

Allen: Thinks the pro's mentioned were strong, but would like to know how to make it equal to other union employees who don't get the 4 day work week and how to make it fair and equal. Thinks perhaps personal days should be changed from days to hours in the union contract. Willing to keep this at the moment, but need to study what happens to the other employees in the union.

Cheryl Clark did not want to comment on the above at this point.

Allen: Keep going the way we are, and will continue talking with the union about equity.

Staff members thank the Board and leave

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner & Conservation Agent, Sign Green Communities Grant

Ramsey: As part of becoming a green community the town has been awarded a Green Communities grant from the Department of Energy Resources in the amount of \$154,944 for the purpose of buying down into the energy contract that the Town is currently engaging in with Siemens. This money is going to help expand the scope of the overall contract and allow the town to do more energy efficient projects in more buildings.

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board accepts and authorize the Chair to sign the contract documents for a Green Community grant in the amount of \$154,944 from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. The purpose of this grant is to buy down the cost of a performance contract which will provide energy efficiency improvements to various

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municipal buildings. The end date for the grant is September 30, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Appoint Planning Board Member

Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Frederick Bowman of Fairway Avenue to the Montague Planning Board with a term from September 20, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Allen – Aye

There is also an opening for an associate member

Mark Canon, La-Bodega the Latino Connection, Outdoor event on September 26, 2010

Canon: We are planning an outdoor event for Mexican Independence Day, like in prior events going to have an outdoor DJ, free food, music and a good time from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Allen: We have the entertainment form that has been signed off by Board of Health, Fire Chief, and Chief Zukowski recommends the event be denied due to the past and current noise issues from the business and lack of cooperation from Mr. Canon.

Fairbrother feels this permit should be denied

Allen feels the same, responding to number of complaints from people. Thinks the staff has done a good job trying to respond to the Board's issues, but also as Chief Zukowski says have found that Mark's cooperation has been short of what is really needed.

Canon: I disagree with that. The prior issues with noise have only been during the event and the noise from the speaker was brought up, the speaker hasn't been out there since our last event.

Allen: This is about issues during your events that we received.

Canon: BOH was there with the noise indicator and we were well within any noise ordinances. The last time the officer came down at our last event, there have been no complaints since then, in the police logs or any logs. We were asked to turn it down and we did, then Gina McNeely showed up 5 minutes later and she found everything was well within the scope of the permit.

Allen: We are responding to the complaints from residents. What has been going on has been an ongoing irritant everytime you have one of these specific events.

Canon: No different than what Second Street or the Rendezvous has.

Allen: You don't have an entertainment license. We are discussing LaBodega's event not other bars' events and our feeling that you have not been cooperative. We're not saying your staff has not been cooperative; my feeling is you have had your chances and during events you have had when we told you about the issues, they continued to be issues during your event. There have been a series of complaints that have come into the town hall or the police station, and you have seen them in the past.

Canon: I have, and they have been addressed. I gave Chief Zukowksi my word we were going to cooperate with him and with the public, we jumped through all kinds of hoops to make everybody happy and this is just a one day, five hour event for the community. If you want to deny it because of the music, okay. I think it's wrong, I think it's racist and I think it is being undesirable and not very community oriented or spirited.

Allen: That is just my particular feeling, Mark or Chris you can....

Canon: We know Mr. Fairbrothers' feelings anyways because he has been very vocal about it, but that is besides the point. You're going to punish the community because Chief Zukowski doesn't think I'm being cooperative? Not my staff or the store or the music or the event or the community event? You're going to punish the community because you don't think I'm being cooperative.

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Allen: It would be our decision not Chief Zukowski's decision. We are taking his recommendation under consideration and I happen to agree with him and it is my feeling also.

Boutwell: I know there have been issues in the past, I think it may have calmed down a little, however, I've seen the recommendation from Chief Zukowski and I like people to work together not against each other. I would prefer that this wasn't on there, but unfortunately it is (the Chief's comment).

Canon: I think the Chief's comments are in line with members of the Selectboard that have a big problem with the Latino event in general. I'm going to say it like that.

Fairbrother makes motion to issue an Entertainment License to Mark Canon, owner of La Bodega at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls for Sunday September 26, 2010 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Seconded by Boutwell. Fairbrother – Nay, Allen – Nay, Boutwell – Abstain

Allen: I'm afraid this is not approved for this time, Mark.

Canon: Okay, there are ways around this. See you on the 26th.

Other

Norma's Park in Lake Pleasant is being rededicated on Thursday, September 30th at 5:30 PM, all are invited

Town Administrators Report

Approve and sign the Standard Form of Agreement between Town of Montague and Camp Dresser & McKee

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept and authorize the Chair to sign a contract between the Town of Montague and Camp Dresser & McKee for an amount not to exceed \$25,000. This contract is for CDM to evaluate the requested financial participation in the Erving WWTP upgrade and to assess alternatives to future service at said facility. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Request to waive the issuance of the Industrial Development Bond for Mayhew Steel

Abbondanzio: Back in the 1960's we create an Industrial Development Finance Board and actually that Board was still being appointed as of the 1990's; I can't remember it ever being active and issuing any industrial bonds. Typically that has been done by the State through the Mass. Industrial Finance Authority. That is the plan and Mayhew Tools has requested an industrial development bond from them. This is a formality; we have to waive our right to issue it locally.

Fairbrother makes the motion and reads into the record Montague, Massachusetts Industrial Development Financing Authority, A Resolution requesting the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency to Finance a Project for the benefit of Mayhew Steel. WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (the "Agency") has received an inquiry from Mayhew Steel Products, Inc. (the "Sponsor" which term includes any parent, subsidiary or other affiliate thereof) as a potential sponsor of a project to be financed by the Agency and to consist of certain industrial development facilities (the "Project") to be located in the town of Montague, Massachusetts, the project being generally described as follows: The construction of an approximately 33,600 square foot building addition located at 199 Industrial Boulevard, Montague (Turners Falls), MA and the acquisition and installation therein by the Corporation of equipment, including CNC automatic lathes and robots that forge, stamp or grind together with other expenses related thereto, to be used by the Sponsor in connection with its business of manufacturing quality steel hand tool products, all as more fully described in the Sponsor's Tax-Exempt Industrial Development Bond Application dated; August 26, 2010 and;

WHEREAS, the Agency has notified the Montague Industrial Development Financing Authority ("Authority") in writing of such inquiry by the Sponsor, in compliance with Section 8(a) of Chapter 23G of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Authority acting in the name and behalf of the town of Montague, Massachusetts, hereby requires that the Agency assume the role of this Authority in financing the Project, as authorized by Section 8(a) Of Chapter 23G of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Abbondanzio: Today we received an application from the State for the beginning of the TIF process the Tax Increment Financing what used to be called the certified project application that starts the ball rolling so the company can start

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negotiating a tax increment financing agreement with the Town and the Fire District. The application talks about the 33,600 sq. ft. facility in addition to the existing building at 199 Industrial Blvd.; the building will be used for manufacturing and warehousing and will include 2 small offices, a small meeting room, 4 loading docks, crane and 18 additional parking spaces. The initial cost estimate is \$1.5 million for the building related items \$100,000 to relocate the existing manufacturing equipment and \$500,000 to do machinery and equipment. The plan is to start construction in October 2010, complete construction by March 2011. The project is necessary for Mayhew to consolidate as many locations as possible to this addition in order to reduce manufacturing costs and improve levels of service to their customers by reducing manufacturing cycle time. When addition is complete and fully occupied, Mayhew will close any current location and be relocated. Shelburne Falls, MA is owned and will be offered for sale, 38 Industrial Blvd, Turners Falls, Greenfield, MA and New Wilmington PA are all leased and thus the lease will not be renewed. Mayhew currently has 39 permanent employees in Shelburne Falls, 15 in Turners Falls and 8 in New Wilmington, PA. Deerfield Packaging has 20 employees in Turners Falls. This is a total of 82 permanent employees of which 35 are already in Turners Falls. The plan is to consolidate as many locations into this addition, relocate the jobs to Turners Falls over the 2 to 3 year period. In addition, Mayhew and Deerfield Packaging expect to add approximately 5 positions, 2 administrative, and 3 manufacturing. Total new job creation in Massachusetts could reach 10 when the consolidation is complete. Mayhew recruits employees using local news papers, local employment search companies and the internet. Now that this application is officially received by the town, I would ask the board to refer it to the Fiscal Advisory Committee so we can interview the company and see what they had in mind as far as the tax concession.

Fairbrother makes the motion to forward the request from Mayhew Steel to the Fiscal Advisory Board for review. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – aye, Allen – Aye

Sign Close-Out Agreement for CDFI under the FY2006 CDBG

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program Close-out agreement for Grant No.: CDF I-G-2006-Montague-00510. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – aye, Allen – Aye

Request to Appoint Disabled Commuter Representative to Serve as a Non-Voting Member of the FRTA Advisory Board

Abbondanzio: At this point we don't have an individual to appoint, so I'd like to put the word out there if there is a member of the disabled community that uses the FRTA and would be interested in serving as a non-voting member of the FRTA Advisory Board to contact the Selectmen's Office.

Other

Received a letter from Carl Ladd today regarding DESE being on site during the week of September 27 to conduct a comprehensive review of the G/M District. One of the critical questions they need to answer revolves around the fiscal capacity of the district. They have agreed to set up a focus group with Town Officials, they are requesting each group send a representative to the focus group, rather than a large crowd.

Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Pat Allen to attend the meeting with DESE on September 29th from 10:30AM to 12:00 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – aye, Allen – Aye

Use of Public Property, Booster Day Parade

Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board grant a permit and waive permit fees for public demonstration (parade) and use of public property (Unity Park, Avenue A, Seventh St., part of L St., Montague St., and Turnpike Road) to Shawn Ashworth on behalf of the Turners Falls High School Student Council for a Booster Day parade from Unity Park to Gill/Montague Regional High School via the route specified above. The date will be October 23, 2010, with the participants to assemble at 10:15 AM and the parade to begin at 11:15 AM and extend to 1:00 PM. Approximately 200 participants and 15 vehicles are expected. Police Chief Raymond Zukowski has signed off on the event and a copy of their insurance certificate has been provided. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Use of Public Property, Veterans Day Parade

Fairbrother makes the motion that the board grant a permit for assembly, public demonstration, and use of public property (Avenue A from 2nd Street to the Veteran's Memorial) to Al Cummings, Chair of the Trustees of the Soldiers' Memorial, for

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November 11, 2010 from 10:00 AM through 12:00 PM for the purposes of a parade down Avenue A and a ceremony at the memorial honoring all our fallen veterans. Police Chief Zukowski has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye (Boutwell discloses he is on Memorial Committee)

Use of Public Property, Turners Falls RiverCulture

Fairbrother makes the motion to grant a permit and waive permit fees for use of Peskeompskut Park, specifically the main open grass area, to Lisa Davol on behalf of Turners Falls RiverCulture for the purpose of a display of 25 3ft tall solar-powered sound boxes. The interactive work will be on display on the grass area of the park on November 12, 13, and 14 from 11 AM through 5 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen – Aye

Other

- District Meeting November 18th at 6:30 PM at the Turners Falls High School.
- Discussion about the construction company's continued use of the parking lot; the Town needs to be compensated for use of additional space. Frank to talk to Tom about this.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye