

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, December 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 (absent); Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI (absent), Janel Nockleby, Montague Reporter

Allen announces meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of December 13, 2010

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 13, 2010. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, Announce Award from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Trombley: Received award from the EPA which is the result of a write up by a member of the Dept. of Environmental Protection, I believe Mark Casella. Mark has been at the plant several times and apparently he was sufficiently impressed to do a very nice write up about the Town and the plant staff. (Trombley reads a portion of the award letter into the record) There is an awards ceremony in Boston on January 26th which I will be attending. EPA will be coming in to do a presentation to the Board and staff at a later date.

Allen praises Trombley for his dedication, attention to detail, and the flexibility of his staff has shown by trying different things. It obviously did not go unnoticed and all have worked extremely hard. Allen asks Bob to give the Boards appreciation to the whole staff.

Update on Inter-municipal Agreement with Erving WPCF

Allen felt they were very open and receptive and flexible. Thinks what was heard early on was way off base in terms of what they expected us to pay. One of the things they mentioned was they had not discussed it at all and keeping with the spirit of us all getting together which they now want to do more often. I think we were pretty clear on the issues, I think the past is the past; and they do not want to go back and have us reimburse them for whatever they have already paid. They have also already recognized that their plant was built with the thought in mind that if the IP building gets reused for something that they may well need more capacity. Right now they only use 380,000 gallons a day and they have the capacity for a million. They were thinking that Montague shouldn't be paying 50% of the whole thing because we are only ultimately at the most maybe 25%. When we left we said they should sit down and think about what numbers they are really thinking of and what they want to get out of this.

Trombley: I've been in contact with Art Pace, the Environmental Manager and I have had no issues, it has been very good as far as the operator relationship goes. I'm losing one of my operators to Art next week.

Allen: One of the things that was mentioned was that things have been running so smoothly that nobody really stopped to think about what kind of agreement we had. Tom Sharp said they always thought we were a customer, now they find out we are a partner. I called Tom later, because I wanted him to know ahead of time we had the place holder on our warrant.

Approve Town Meeting Article

Article 7 was originally \$36,500, I've been working with Carolyn and looking at using less than 60,000, but want to make sure we have enough. Can always lower at Town meeting.

Fairbrother makes the motion to place ARTICLE 7 on the January 6, 2011 Special Town Meeting Warrantas previously written from \$36,500 to \$60,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings for the purpose of stabilizing and/or reducing the sewer rates for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2010, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye

Resignations

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the resignation of Darby Chagnon from the WPCF as an operator effective December 24, 2011 with regrets. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the resignation of James Paulin from the Highway Dept. effective December 24, 2010 with regret. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye

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Rich Briere

Briere: Thanks the Board for seeing him on such short notice. I would like to straighten out the dog kennel behind Judd Wire. For the past month and a half I have become very aware of something's that could be done to help Mr. Kalleen (the person who runs it). I have spoken to the folks at the Tech School who have offered to come in and help put that place back together; complete with fixing the boiler that doesn't work most of the time. The building is in rough shape. In my humble opinion it is impossible for one man to try and do the amount of work that it takes to keep that place going. I went to see John Carey at the Tech School who offered to come in and essentially do whatever it takes to make this place happen. I called Kalleen with that information and he was overjoyed. I learned in Greenfield last year there 900 stray dogs. The work I'm trying to put together and will have a nicely prepared report for all of you at your next meeting should cost you nothing. All the work will be volunteer and on going. It is dismal to anyone who has been in there and it is not Kalleen's fault. We did manage to place most of the dogs that were there they day I found it. I want to make sure I don't do a lot of wheel spinning, connecting with the Chief of Police, I want to get a meeting between he, Kalleen, John Carey and anyone else who would be an interested party and be able to come back to you and say here is what we propose. The animals have chewed through the doors, they are just lying shivering on a piece of rubber trampoline inside the building. I would venture to guess no one in this room could be in that building more than 15 seconds before you physically have to leave. Again, I'm not putting any blame anywhere, one guy can only do so much to try and take care of it.

Allen: I'm glad you mentioned those parties because we're also with Greenfield and Deerfield and talking to Chief Zukowski is the way to go. There is also the potential that the Sheriffs Dept. may take over this entire piece at some point. Chief Zukowski is a good place to start.

Further discussion

Briere asks if the Board has any objections to him pursuing this? The Board responds they do not. He should go through Chief Zukowski as he knows all the pieces to this.

Personnel Board, Hire Planning/Board of Health Clerk and Dispatcher

Fairbrother makes the motion to rescind the motion made last week as described to appoint Anne Stuart to the Planning Board/Board of Health effective December 14, 2010. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Anne E. H. Stuart to the Planning Board/Health Clerk position, Grade H2-1 at \$13.50/hour effective January 3, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. . *Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye*

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Cynthia Hunter for the full time position of dispatcher for the Montague Police Department effective December 27, 2010 for 37.69/hours per week at grade 2, Step 6 at \$14.00 per hour. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. . Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye – Allen – Aye

Town Administrators Report

Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant

Articles were explained and discussed last week.

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 1 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$171,281, or any other amount, for the purpose of supplementing the appropriation made under Article 11 of the June 5, 2010 annual town meeting for Montague's share of the assessment for the yearly operation of the Gill Montague Regional School District. Said additional sum being necessary to fund the Gill Montague Regional School District assessment of \$7,401,608 as voted by the Gill Montague Regional School District on November 9, 2010 or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 2 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend the funding sources for Article 6 of the June 5, 2010 Annual Town Meeting by changing

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the funding sources from "\$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash and \$7,039,447 to be raised from Taxation" to "\$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash, \$58,337.89 to be raised from Fund Balance Reserved for Excluded Debt and \$6,981,109.11 to be raised from Taxation" or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 3 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the creation of the Mayhew Steel Economic Opportunity Area (EOA) in the Montague Industrial Park, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 4 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 4. on the Special Town Meeting Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to approve Mayhew Steel's application for designation as a Certified Project in the Mayhew Steel Economic Opportunity Area and further approve the Tax Increment Financing Agreement as negotiated by the Board of Selectmen, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 5 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$2,860.46 for the purpose of paying prior year bills of the Building Department, General Insurance and to Verizon or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 6 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept for general municipal purposes a gift of land by Quitclaim deed from James H. Mizaur for property located on the east side of Gunn Road (formerly known as Old Sunderland Road), and westerly of the land now or formerly of the Central Vermont Railway, shown on Assessors' Map 51, Parcel 26, a copy of such Quitclaim deed being on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Article 7 was voted previously in the meeting

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 8 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Water Supply Protection District (Section 9 of the Montague Zoning Bylaws) to include the aquifer recharge area surrounding the backup source for the Turners Falls Water District known as Hannegan Brook Well or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. A map and text of the zoning amendment is available at the Planning and Conservation Department. (Turners Falls Water District Request) Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 9 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$35,000 or any other amount for the purpose of paying engineering and legal expenses associated with the evaluation of the Towns inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Erving, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Fairbrother makes the motion to put Article 10 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 6, 2011: ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to terminate the inter-municipal sewer agreement with the Town of Erving or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye

Announcement: Flu Shots available on Thursdays in the Town Hall Nurse's office, between 9:30 and 11:30 AM

Strathmore Update:

Jensen: Goes over list he presented to the Board of Selectmen. List was started in March and we have made some progress on it. I was at the Strathmore on Friday with Highway draining down what we could on the sprinkler system, to try to stay

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ahead of what we could. That night the line blew, it wasn't anything that we could have even predicted. It happened in the attic and blew out an inch and a half line; there was a phenomenal amount of water. Most of the water ended up in the basement, top two floors have ice on the floors. The Sprinkler Contractor came in and repaired the broken pipe, Highway was back there today draining it down trying to keep costs down, it is back on line right now. Clearly there is some ice in the lines somewhere, whether it is going to be a serious problem later on, we hope not. The Highway Dept. has been doing things, we cleaned out some of the fire debris (we could use more gone also). The FC inmates were in there and cleaned up as much recycling as they could get to. We're looking into getting rid of more paper and seeing if we can un roll it and then it will be an acceptable type of material for recycling as opposed to being in a tight roll which they can't deal with; but it is labor intensive, Maybe the inmates can start working on this.

Fairbrother: I had a tour in there today with Mike Brown of the Water Dept. There were a couple of places I saw today that I asked Tom to have his people get closed up.

Jensen: I was there 3 times today. We brought in an electrician to repair the short in one of the heat tape circuits and that should be fixed by tomorrow. Over the last couple of years the fire pump room has been heated. Swift River has removed their sprinkler service from the fire pump room, so they are bowing out of the process. There is one pipe in there that we are asking for a price to insulate and heat tape that. The remainder of the piping appears to be charged with canal water and we found one potential source, but think there is another. My opinion would be that is Swift Rivers responsibility to isolate the canal water; because one of the taps is in their building. If we can fix those, then we can essentially not worry about that room. If there is a break in any of those pipes in there it is big water.

Fairbrother asks if enough electricity can get to that room to heat tape all those pipes?

Jensen responds that we are trying to figure out how to abandon all of them except for the one that we need. That is the strategy at the moment; it would be very expensive to try and heat tape all of those pipes. Quite frankly, we don't own any of the water in those pipes, yes if they break we are downstream from that, but if they break Swift River would at least have to shut down. My current opinion is that they have the responsibility to fix the tap that is pressurizing that system, then we may be able to drain it down. If there is a connection to the canal, we need to have a discussion with First Light on them sealing their end of it. We've tracked it, we've graphed it, we've solicited opinions from a number of people and we are about 90% figured out, but the last 10% we (Jensen, Mike Brown) better have figured out before we even think about doing anything. Mike Browns situation is pretty much cured if we insulate that pipe that is the end of the City water, but the canal water, we need to have a more realistic conversation with Swift River. We have to wait until the Canal is drawn down in August. Further discussion.

Fairbrother: When Frank returns we need to have him convene another meeting. If this is the room that I saw today, Mike Brown told me, (it's a big pipe that comes out of the wall) he said it is charged with canal water, if that pipe breaks, the only way you are going to stop water of how ever much volume from pouring into that room and that building forever, is to literally lower the canal. We have a long cold season coming up in front of us; I would rather we get some consensus on this and decide what to do. Whether it is put a salamander or little gas heater in that room or something, because I don't want to have to face this Town and say because we couldn't arrive at a decision, we thought we'd wait until the warm weather, we now have a building that has a river flowing through it.

Jensen would like to see more effort on the clean up if it can be pulled off.

*Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously.
Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Allen - Aye*