

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
TUESDAY, July 18, 2011**

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; Chris Curtis, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI, Matt Small, Montague Reporter

Fairbrother opens the meeting and announces the meeting is being taped

Approve Minutes of June 20 and July 5, 2011

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Allen reads proclamation that will be given to the TF Girls Softball Team tonight at a special event being held at the Schuetzen Verein in Gill.

Ellen Spring, Unity Skate Park Committee w/ TF Block Party, BMX Stunt Demonstration (presented by Bryan Dolan and Sara Pierson)

Dolan: Would like to add BMX Stunt Demonstration to Block Party at Avenue A and Fourth Street Intersection. A team of professional BMX riders are going to set up a quarter pipe and do tricks over it for 3 - 20 minute sessions during the block party. They have agreed to sign a blanket waiver, Hold Harmless Agreement

Allen makes the motion to approve the request for use of public property, being Avenue A, from Fourth Street to the entrance to DiPaolo's Parking Lot for Saturday, August 13 from 12:00 to 10:00 PM (including set up/breakdown) for the BMX Stunt Demonstration under the auspices of the Unity Skate Park Committee and approved by the Police Chief. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Bob Escott, TF Firemen's Association, Request to use garage bay at old police station

Escott and Brian McCarthy are here representing the TF Firemen's Association not the Fire Dept.

Escott: We are looking to use some Town owned garage space. The Millers Falls Fire Association has stayed intact for many years and 4 members owned an antique fire truck that they have spent a considerable amount of time restoring and bringing back to very good condition. They have gotten to the point where they can't keep it anymore and have offered it to our Association. The thing that is unique about it is, it is the first motorized piece of fire apparatus that the Millers Falls Fire Dept. ever had. It is an American LaFrance Brockway model and I believe it is a 1928 (might be off by a couple of years, but it is from the 1920 era). Offered it to our Association as a gift with the understanding the Association would keep it, our problem is we have no place to store it. Need a place to store it without spending a lot of money. Zukowski and Bergeron both agreed that space would be available in the sally port. This would be a registered and insured vehicle. Would be willing to sign an MOU.

Abbondanzio: The Police Department had said they wanted to keep the Sally Port for their future use, but if obviously they have worked that out with you. I know there were other demands, the Veterans Memorial People were looking at one of the other garage bays, I believe because the sally port wasn't available before.

Boutwell: Probably half of the space would do.

Allen makes the motion to endorse the concept to allow the Turners Falls Firemen's Association to use the Sally port in the old police station building once an appropriate MOU is approved and signed. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent, CSO/Fournier Rotary Press & Garage Extension Project

Decided not to move forward on Change order #7, It would have been a nice to do item, but it really is not a critical item, so I've withdrawn that. Proposed change order #8 involves the Gas Guard Monitoring System. This is a

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system that monitors the atmosphere at various locations for combustible and hydrogen sulfide gases. The modified sludge garage has one each of these new sensors. The existing system installed with the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) work will contain associated new circuitry. Two gas channel components, 2 channel & 2 relay cards omitted from the contract and now need to be installed and hence the change order. The cost of the change is \$1,900.61

Allen makes the motion to approve change order #8 for the CSO Project for the Gas Guard Monitoring System at a cost of \$1,900.61 recognizing the change order number could change. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

CSO/Fournier Rotary Press & Garage Extension Project

Trombley: We are still on schedule for the start up testing of the operational next week and still working on a couple of items with polymer feed pumps, we hope the issues will be resolved by the end of the week.

Review of Millers Falls Proposed Pump Station, CDM, Greg Roy, Paul Gilbert

Trombley: CDM has taken the flow model that was developed for the CSO characterization report a little over 10 years ago and will present findings on that tonight. There are limitations on the existing sewer system. (Map showing different routes handed out). Based on their review, there are 2 routes they can go. The economics are based on the Turnpike Road and Millers Falls routing.

G. Roy: We had to make sure your existing sewer system could handle additional flow from Millers Falls. In the beginning we had thoughts about the Turnpike Road route which is Route A option, since our last meeting we have looked at two options, Route B (down by Lake Pleasant). Looking at the two routes is to account for any additional costs that might be incurred as a result of moving forward with this plan. We found that Route B requires a portion of 8" pipe (Old Northfield Road) to be replaced as it is too small and cannot handle the additional flow, but there are also impacts downstream in the existing system. Route A seems a lot better, we were able to make use of the Towns investment in towns model and we were able to get quick response as to the capacity of that existing sewer but we also found that the dash part on Turnpike Road needs to be replaced as it is also an 8" pipe but it is not as much pipe as the other route to the south. The rest of the pipe is a large diameter and can handle the peak flows and shouldn't be a problem. Lake Pleasant has two pump stations that discharge to it, so there are some homes down there and Turnpike Road also has some connections upstream also.

Trombley: Keep in mind, the force main section, the Town has never allowed people to connect to a force main directly, and I would like it to remain that way.

G. Roy: Once we felt comfortable with the route going down Turnpike Road, I then modified the cost analysis so the viability of moving forward would bring in this pump station and redirecting Millers Falls. That is all summarized in the sheet "Review of Montague's Wastewater Processing Options" Lengthy discussion was held regarding handout. Cost comparisons are pretty close, but after the 20 years if you put in the pump station and have everything staying within Montague you owe nothing else, to anybody else, you don't have to continue paying 100 years out to Erving, and you own equity in the new system. The other way to look at it, at the 20th year, if you stuck with Erving, you would be paying them \$327,000 at a minimum for wastewater service. If you stayed with Montague, Millers Falls flow and the 21st year, we are predicting it would cost the Treatment plant around \$80,000 to treat that flow, rather than paying Erving \$327,000, that's the difference. A 20% construction design contingency is included as well as a 20% for services, a total of 40% contingencies.

Discussion

Even if we don't build our own pump station, the agreement with Erving needs to be reworked.

Town Administrators Report

Program Income Hearing to include:

Abbondanzio: First would like a vote on rescission of existing funds allocated to make money available to use first through rescission of balances we have that we are not going to be using:

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Allen makes the motion to rescind the unused amounts in the Millers Falls Streetscape \$17,846.94; Peskeompskut Park \$30,406.55; Dry Hill Feasibility \$1,600; Police Station 2008 Match \$30,000; and Scotty's \$32,000 for a total of \$111,853.49. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Proposed Projects: Downtown Beautification: \$2,000 for new faucets to deal with the availability of water on Avenue for the planters. \$2000 would be for replacing the two utility boxes and \$1,000 for other expenses related to materials of the gardens such as compost, purchasing plant materials if we were doing special plantings and stuff like that.

Fairbrother applauds their efforts and thanks them for the work down town. I met Mike Brown of the Water Dept. in Lake Pleasant Monday morning and they have an issue over there with the bell tower that I haven't had a chance to bring it forward. Turners Falls gets the lion's share of all the money we are spending for things like this and I would like to see some money given to the folks in Lake Pleasant to repair or rehab the bell tower. I would like to see an effort to spread this around. If it works out to do something for the planters down the road, sure. Wants to hold off on the \$1000.

Boutwell points out that it is getting hard to see store front signs because of the trees covering the signs. Fairbrother would like to see Frank work with Tom Bergeron on resolving this issue and report back to the Board.

Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings: This has been used for re-pointing in Montague Center of the Town Hall, we used it as Strathmore, the Health Dept. has used it to board up buildings,

DPW Building Space Needs Assessment/Feasibility Study: We are doing a feasibility study at the Landfill Industrial Park that includes the sighting of the Town garage. We are currently in discussions under the ESCO project debating whether or not we should spend money on the upgrading of the energy infrastructure at the Town garage. We are looking at putting roughly \$300,000 into a building where the payback is far out. The consideration now is to look at potentially putting up a Town Garage at the landfill and using some of the Chapter 90 money to pay the debt service. This will be part of the larger feasibility study that looks at the Industrial Park development at the landfill, the solar potential at the landfill and the sighting of the Town garage. We could actually do a space needs assessment that would look at exactly how the DPW operates and what kind of space they need based on the equipment they have, how they use the equipment and what it would cost to build that and basically come up with a budget that we could work with and potentially go to Town meeting for funds to actually design and construct the facility. Walter is preparing the RFP for the Turnpike Road Industrial Park Project Feasibility Study, so this would be one component of that study.

Brownfield Grant Match: This project assumes we would get \$200,000 grant to get rid of the pile at Strathmore, building 10 in its current condition. We would have to get a loan for \$112,000. This would be contingent upon Town Meeting endorsing the whole project including the loan at 2.5% interest rate over 20 years; the actual annual debt service on that is about \$8,300 a year (which Town meeting has to approve).

Fairbrother wants it noted that sooner or later the town will be responsible for paying for removing the pile at the Strathmore Building 10, and this appears to be the best scenario. (a 10% match)

Allen makes the motion to approve from the program income account \$4,000 for the Downtown Beautification Project, \$15,000 for the Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings; \$13,000 for the DPW Building Space Needs Assessment /Feasibility Study; \$24,000 for the Brownfield's grant match with a total cost of the projects being \$56,000. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

FY 2011 CDBG Update

Abbondanzio: Obviously you read about the Unity Park Grant and you've received a list of project schedule. Procurement of the Engineer/Landscape Architect will be going out to the Central Register in August and we are looking at request for proposals being due around September 1, Board of Selectmen awarding contracts September 12, 2011; bid documents being ready for bidding in October, Central Register in October and bids due in early November with a construction starting in the Spring of 2012.

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EPA Response Letter: Dieseling

Abbondanzio: We received a response from EPA on Dieseling issue in Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant and basically saying they understand the problem, they recognize the need to discuss it they are reminding us of all the alternatives that are available to them as an EPA and offered to sit down and discuss it with the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen. I was going to recommend that Gina and I sit down and touch base with them and hash over the issues before we get together with the railroad.

MMA Update on FY 2012 Budget and health insurance reform bill

Abbondanzio: I think the main thing for you to see is the potential that in October we may see the state aid we lost, restored. The legislature is considering, assuming the revenues overall comeback, they have committed to put up the \$65 million which is what they cut our State aid by over the last 4 years. This is a little part of it they are trying to make up for, and we'll find out in October what that number will be. The MMA, Kopelman & Paige and Sullivan and Hayes have all put out guidelines describing the Health Insurance Reform and how it is implemented. The bottom line is the feeling was one of the first steps is the Selectboard (as the authority) votes to take advantage of this program. You do not do this first, you do your homework first, look at what kind of plans are out there and what might be good for the Town; think about what kind of plan design would be appropriate. In our case you would look at the Hampshire Health Group, see what they have in mind. We need to find out what is out there so you can figure out what kind of changes might be appropriate. It was advised that we go ahead and establish an employee committee (PEC) and that is something I can initiate. A PEC is a committee that will be negotiating with, like coalition bargaining. It is made up of representatives of all the unions and the retirees and they look over what you are proposing in terms of plan design, seeing what the cost savings are that you think you are going to get and evaluating whether or not that is realistic in terms of what savings will be and developing any kind of mitigation strategy as some people will be impacted more than others. To keep that whole process honest, another committee will be established that will include a representative from the Town, representative from the employee PEC committee and also a person appointed off a list provided by the State Division of Administration and Finance. That Board will evaluate and see whether or not your savings are realistic and also be able to have veto power on the mitigation strategy. A lot of the details on the regulations and guidelines have to be worked out.

Sign Town Administrator Contract

Allen makes the motion to sign the agreement between the Town of Montague and Town Administrator dated July 17, 2011 and is a 3 year contract that started on July 1, 2011 and ends on June 30, 2014. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Welcome Allied Waste as new partner to River Culture

Allied Waste has agreed to donate \$2,500 for the current year and \$1,900 a year while we are in contract with them. Any partners we can bring in really helps.

Sign Brown Field Grant Support Letter

Allen makes the motion to sign the Brownfield's grant support letter in regards to the FRCOG Rural Brownfield's Clean-up Revolving Loan and Subgrant Fund. This would be to clean up the debris from the 2007 Arson that destroyed building #10 at the Strathmore Mill. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

HUD Sustainability Grant

This is a sub-recipient agreement with the Regional Council of Governments for them to do the work they have to do in the Town of Montague with a total value of \$51,500. Our match is \$11,500 which is in-kind for Walter Ramsey's services over three years.

Allen makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant sub-recipient agreement with the FRCOG and the Town of Montague. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Other – presented by Frank Abbondanzio

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I have two weeks worth of a pile of metal that was brought in from a Millers Falls Resident that has fallen off of trucks on Route 63. A bigger bag was given to Tom Bergeron a month ago. The resident would like the sweeper to go through there once a month to try and keep on top of this. This is all related to the bridge construction project. More details need to be firmed up.

111F

Allen makes the motion to take Officer Sevene off of 111F and have him return to duty effective today, July 18, 2011. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – aye, Fairbrother – Aye

Railroad Salvage Update

Jensen: We talked about asbestos removal and our inability to confirm it was done. Some was done, what Mr. Bent was representing and what he claimed to believe was done was not. It is now back in the works, he faxed me a copy of the signed contract to proceed. He discussed with DEP whether he could start the demolition he has to do in the other section prior to this being done. According to Mr. Bent the answer was no, it has to wait for this. They are committed to a start date of August 18th and 19th for the last of the asbestos to be removed. He is talking with a local contractor about the demolition.

Other

Allen: The Chair of the School Committee had a letter in the Recorder recently indicating the school has been continuing on the level 4 status and indicated that was going to continue for several years and the tone of the letter seemed to imply it was okay with the School Committee. We've learned it was done by the individual, not the School Committee. In the interim, a few of us from Gill/Montague which started with the Technical Committee, don't feel it is appropriate that we are on level 4 for 3 more years when nobody seems to understand exactly what level 4 means because different information from DESE says different things. The Town of Gill and the Town of Montague Selectboard's are being asked to sign a letter about continued level 4 for 3 more years. I would like to suggest we send the same letter to the School Committee. All members are in agreement

Allen makes the motion to send the same letter Gill is sending including the Town of Montague with our names on it to the Gill/Montague School Committee for their meeting tomorrow night. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Allen makes the motion to go into three executive sessions: one to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; the other two are to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body (one is contempt and the other is Erving). Seconded by Boutwell. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the executive session at 9:28 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.