

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, February 10, 2014**

*Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson (remotely); Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, Executive Assistant, Wendy Bogusz;*

Meeting being taped

**Approve minutes January 13 and 27, 2014**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2014, seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of January 27, 2014, seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

**Robert Trombley, WPCF, and Grant Weaver, Water Planet Company, Plant Process Control Discussion, Results and Hopes**

Trombley: Here to discuss the results of what we have been doing for process control at the Treatment Plant. History given. This year it looks like we will be taking in \$75,000 (rough estimate) more in revenue than we estimated and roughly \$200,000 less in expenses than we estimated in the budget. So at the end of the fiscal year we have the potential for \$275,000 retained earnings if not more. That may be low and on the conservative side; we are taking it month by month. The goal is to operate the plant in such a way that we still maintain a permit, try to become more efficient, reducing costs, bringing in more revenue, and meeting all the regulatory requirements we have.

Weaver: When I met Bob and staff 3 years ago, they are doing some creative things; they are rewriting the book in Montague. Bob is presenting overly moderate figures to you. The treatment is becoming more efficient so it is costing less every year. There are lessons to be learned here by other communities; Dr. Shed of the Connecticut River Watershed was so impressed with a recent presentation Bob did, we've been trying to collaborate on a much grander project and hopefully we can get some funding by working with EPA and others. Trying to build on what is going on in Montague. It not only is costing rate payers less it is more sustainable because we are not building more. The money savings speaks for itself, we want to tighten up the data on the treatment side of it, to be able to organize for state and staff under the policies and procedures and what are the limits; and then use that information to the towns benefit to promote good work. If what I'm seeing is true, potential savings nationwide is billions of dollars nation wide.

Discussion

Golrick Asks how citizens will benefit from the profits?

Trombley: The money that is saved will go into the Retained Earnings fund and can be used to stabilize sewer rates or pay for things, if not available town would have to short and long term borrow, then sewer rates would go up. Doesn't expect the rates to go down, but we have other debt significant debt service kicking in. The State wants us to add more staff at the plant, pump stations need to be rebuilt/rehabbed, so there is significant debt service issues out there that will be eating up the profit that we see right now. If we can fine tune this process there is potential in the future to do a couple things, one is to take in more outside sludges and the other part is we are running a composting pilot study that we will run for 2 – 3 years that the sludge we make we can produce the compost with the potential of selling that and getting the revenue source out of that. Another possibility we've talked about is the potential of doing biodiesel. We have a lot of irons in the fire and have to do more research. There is a lot of potential at the plant that the staff continues to work on and we are taking it one month at a time, and one fiscal year at a time. If we weren't doing what we are doing the four years of stable sewer rates would never have happened and the rates would be higher than what they are today. There has been discussions about patenting this and once it is done, there is no reason why we can't patent this. There is also a risk, there is a regulatory regulation and we are walking a fine line with this. The goal is to get smarter on how we lower the risk to bring in the revenue.

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J. Little: Remember talking to the educated people and they thought we were nuts. We bounced ideas off of Mr. Weaver and some of the things we have done are the result of Grant saying if you could do this, or how could we do this. We are working on a new system that we hope we can save electricity by 1/3 or better down the road.

Trombly: Operators in the field have told us this is impossible and the staff has taken this as a challenge.

**Jeff Singleton, Approve Letter to FRTA Administration and Board requesting meeting with Town officials and the Council of Governments**

Singleton: Hoping to get ball rolling Singleton reads letter into the record

*Fairbrother makes the motion that the Board of Selectmen vote to authorize the letter of February 10, 2014 as amended. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Abstain*

**MJ Adams, Director of Community Development, FCRHRA, votes may be taken**

**Sign CDBG Application Forms (Application Cover Page, CDBG Funding Displacement Certification, Anti Displacement and Relocation Assistance Certification, Chief Elected Official (CEO) Certification Form, Civil Rights Certification, Designation of Environmental Certifying Officer)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to increase the public facilities item by \$3500 and authorize the Chair to sign the CDBG Application Forms as follows: Application Cover Page, CDBG Funding Displacement Certification, Anti Displacement and Relocation Assistance Certification, Chief Elected Official (CEO) Certification Form, Civil Rights Certification, Designation of Environmental Certifying Officer). Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Town Administrators Report, votes may be taken**

**Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration or Use of Public Property: Our Lady of Peace Church, 5K Walk/Run and 10K Run on April 26, 2014**

To be discussed at next week's meeting as no one was present to speak on behalf of the application, it was tabled until next week's meeting.

**Kali B's Wings & Things: Common Victuallers License Application and Entertainment License**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the Common Victualler's License Application for Kali B's Wings & Things, Avenue A, Turners Falls as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the Entertainment license for Kali B's Wings & Things Avenue A, Turners Falls as presented. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell - Aye, Fairbrother - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Request by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC to survey Town owned land, Map 35, Lot 27 for the Northeast Expansion Project.**

Abbondanzio: I was approached by a representative of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company; apparently he has also approached a number of residents seeking similar information to do survey work in conjunction with a feasibility study to construct a gas pipe line through the Town of Montague. He should me a parcel adjacent to one the Town owns located in Millers Falls on Country Hill way up in the power lines. The power lines cross Federal Street (Route 63) then cross down into Erving, then goes up to Northfield and Warwick. I told them I wanted to see a map that showed where this pipeline was going to be located in the Town and all the other locations and he was not prepared to give that kind of data. I said I thought it was really important and that before people approved anything, they would want to know all the details about the project and he said there would be public hearings and those would happen in a matter of two or three weeks but they needed to have these survey permission slips signed. I think they need to come before the Town and possibly the FRCOG. Need more information before giving permission. Maps used were from Satellite and the area they want to put it is a rocky area. They are asking for 200 feet on either side of the projected center line of the pipeline. Once pipe line is built they would have a permanent easement of a 100' on either side of the pipeline.

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*Boutwell makes the motion not to sign the document until someone from Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC comes before the board to discuss this in more detail. Strongly seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

J. Golrick suggests this goes to Town meeting for them to decide

Discussion

P. Hanold: There is the need for the town to be aware and involved

Woman: They have to go to permitting first, if they don't make it through permitting, they will never make it to eminent domain. The more people refuse to survey the more likely they are to not make it through the first round of permitting.

L. Adams: A lot of this land is protected through APR or CR and you would assume the Hatchery and the Plains being conservation areas. Protected has to be taken by 2/3 majority in the house and senate before then can actually claim it.

**Discuss strategy with respect to Litigation Town vs. Conley eviction matter currently in the Western Division of the Housing Court, Executive Session, under G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) expected.**

Fairbrother declares having this in open session will have a detrimental effect to the Towns bargaining position and therefore requests a motion to discuss this in executive session.

*Boutwell makes the motion with the Selectmen's Chairman having declared an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on litigation position of the public body, that the Board of Selectmen vote to go into Executive Session at 8:10 PM under General Law, Chapter 30A §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy regarding litigation known as the eviction matter of Town of Montague vs. Richard Conley, Western division of the Housing Court, docket #12-SP-897 with the Board of Selectmen to return to open session only to adjourn. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*