

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, February 13, 2012**

05

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Patricia Allen (absent); Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz (absent); Chris Curtis, Greenfield Recorder, David Detmold, Montague Reporter

MEETING BEING TAPED:

Approve Minutes of February 1, 2012

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2012. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved.
Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

Robert Escott, Emergency Manager, Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Escott: This is a mutual aid agreement through the state of Mass. for municipalities. Montague is unique because we have fire districts, but the two fire districts have already entered into the agreement for public safety and there is a section that deals with the DPW or sharing inspectors. Municipalities often share resources without the real legal authority to do so in some cases and MEMA addressed it by getting these agreements made up and approved through the State of Mass. By signing it, it doesn't require you to offer mutual aid, you have the ability to refuse to send something if the case presents itself that it is not convenient or economical for the Town to do so. If you did send a resource somewhere it allows that resource to still be covered under the Town's liability as an employee and equipment, whereas if we were to share something with a Town right now, we don't necessarily have an umbrella. There are some regulations that if you are not signed up you are not eligible for reimbursement. No extra money is required to be put out.

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the paperwork for the Town to participate in the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Program and a Public Works Mutual Aid Program, both established by Mass. General Law, Chapter 40, section 41, Public Safety and section 4k Public works. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved.
Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.*

Other

The G/M Bridge will be closed on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 beginning at 9:00 PM until Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 5:00 AM (Bob Escott is asked to let BHS know)

Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrators Report

Discussion regarding policy for Surplus property of paper at Strathmore, declare as surplus (David Jensen, Inspector of Buildings, Lisa Davol, RiverCulture Director)

Abbondanzio explains existing policy currently in place for under \$5,000 in value, otherwise it comes under Chapter 30B. Basically you have to either declare it as having no value, less than \$10 or having a value and being surplus which is anything over \$10 and under \$5,000. I would say this property falls into the category of surplus since it's valued at more than \$10. The purchasing officer (myself) sets the value based on the recommendation from the Department Head and I will do that. I think the issue tonight is dealing with this situation as a unique situation. We have to advertise it for 10 days. You have to post it on a bulletin board for 10 days and if there is no interest in that, than any non profit can submit a letter of interest. If there is more than one non profit interested in it, then you put the names in a hat and draw some one out. This is where we want to ask ourselves if we want to make an exception to the existing policy because I know the RiverCulture has a request before us to at least share in the paper that is in that building for use by local artists.

Davol: I wasn't planning on saying anything because it is just in the idea stage then David had a plan so I thought I'd better get a plan together.

Jensen: I was talking to someone and mentioned I was going to go down to the Strathmore to show paper and she said, look I used to go to this place they give away a lot of stuff to artists, so I made the call to Extras for Creative Learning located in Lynn. They were very anxious to come out and I put them off until after this meeting. When I knew we hadn't declared it surplus property, there was no policy in place and this was a pretty sizeable thing. These people are awaiting a call from me with the results of tonight's meeting to see where things stand. Then Lisa had an

idea for RiverCulture to take over and have a program where one day a month to allow people to come in there to get paper for a donation or a fee for Turners Falls RiverCulture.

Davol: It all started when we were working with a Hampshire Student, Marushka Grogan to figure out an Earned Income Project where we could figure out some business that would ultimately bring in money so we didn't have to ask for money all the time. We talked to the RiverCulture Steering Committee about what are the assets the Town has that they don't want, what kind of unwanted thing could we possibly turn into something; then we talked about paper. There is lot's of paper in the mill then I called Dave to see if we could go see it and we walked through and had all these great ideas and one thing led to the next. Marushka did a bunch of research and identified there are other places that have created donated material stores or Art Supply Stores with materials that are either donated or surplus; so we thought perhaps we could investigate that. We thought the paper was a good start. We started to get all excited and David said the truck was coming next week.

Jensen: Not only is the paper surplus, there is palletized plywood (not very big pieces) but somebody may find it useful. We have made a lot of effort to give it away, we have given a little bit to RiverCulture, donated it, but at that rate it won't disappear in this lifetime. My impression is, they have their idea and even if it's most successful, there is still going to be extra.

Abbondanzio: Because it's under \$5,000, I can declare it surplus, we have to post it for ten days. From the input of the Board we waive one aspect of the policy in terms of not making it an either/or when we drop it in a hat and one gets it and the other doesn't as far as the non profit. If there is no private interested in it at all, I would hope we would give RiverCulture first dibs at it, then give away whatever else to a non-profit group. RiverCulture is considered as part of the Town so should be able to take what they need then put everything else up for dibs.

Jensen: If you exclude the wood, there is probably 3 (minimum) tractor trailers and that's just taking out what is not totally just junk. This also brings up the fact that there is a lot of stuff in there that should be declared as surplus

Abbondanzio: The existing policy basically says if it is no longer useful to the Town of Montague or the RiverCulture, then we can proceed with the advertising of it.

Davol: I would like to tag 5 or 6 rolls. There are several stages to what we are thinking about. Immediately, we would like to make some actual product and sell the product with the paper, but then later on if we could figure out how to make a store, whatever is left would be part of that store. If our plan comes together before it all leaves the building that would be great.

The Board does not want to waive the posting period. Also, a letter of interest should be submitted by anyone that would like the paper.

Jensen: There has been a dumpster down there for 8 or 9 months now, Tom had ordered it to fill up with recycled cardboard which he did. We have a lot of trash that could go, there are prisoners available from the jail to load the dumpster. We would have to pay the dumpster fee, are you interested in having it filled up? It's a pretty labor intensive job.

The Board will look into this. Abbondanzio advises the Board that the unsafe building account is getting very low.

Fairbrother feels the more we can clean up the building the better it will be for marketing the building.

Request to renew lease agreement for the Town Office Building Annex by SPS New England, Inc.

Boutwell makes the motion to renew the lease for the Town Office Building Annex by SPS New England, Inc. for a period of 1 year starting April 1, 2012 and ending on March 31, 2013. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved.

Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Notification by First Light of power Canal Service Outage on 9/10/12 to 9/15/12

This is notification that the Turners Falls Power Canal Service Outage will take place on Monday, September 10, 2012 through Saturday, September 15, 2012. The canal will be drained for 0700 hours Monday, September 10 and remain so until Saturday, September 15th. During this time the canal will be dewatered for inspection and maintenance work along the canal at a number of locations. This date may have to be changed but the Town will be notified.

Request letter be written to T.F. Fire Dept. requesting Fire Alarm Box Fees be waived

Abbondanzio: We have a number of bills from the T.F. Fire Dept. for fire alarm box system maintenance for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. There are 5 different boxes with a total fee of \$1250, last year we asked for a waiver on this and I wanted to know if you wanted to do this again.

Chris and Mark would like a letter written requesting a waiver.

Request by T.F. Airport to declare Surplus Computer Equipment

Boutwell makes the motion that the Board approve Computer Surplus equipment of little or no value from the Turners Falls Municipal Airport and that they be destroyed because of the age and be given to the Apple Computer Recycling Program which will reuse and recycle the parts. The hard drive to be removed before being recycled. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye

Harmony Lodge of Masons: Request to place “Open House” banner on Public Property

Boutwell makes the motion to allow the Harmony Lodge of Masons, Nicholas Prokowich, contact person, to place a sign on the corner of Montague City Road and Masonic Avenue, 4 x 8 banner, blue background with white lettering, open house – grand lodge of Mass., February 25, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Start date will be February 20, 2012 and end date will be February 25, 2012 on use of public property. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM . Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye