

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008**

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#15-08

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Allen, Patricia Pruitt and Allen Ross and Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio. WPCF Superintendent Bob Trombley, Jean Golrick

Approve minutes of March 10, 2008

Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting with corrections. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Bob Trombley, WPCF Superintendent

- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit

5-year permit for discharging into the Connecticut River is up for renewal. Some new items. Bob sent a draft to the John Gall, a regulatory person at CDM. Received revised version which must be reviewed. Questions issues, talks about cost of existing combined sewer overflow project that the Town has approved and is in fact in contract to for a total of \$5.7 million. In an effort to respond to regulatory concerns about combined sewer overflows into the Connecticut River. Looking at what we are spending and the effect on the sewer rate, almost 40% over the next few years. Just one paragraph that I thought sets the stage pretty good for the review by the EPA: “As with many small towns, Montague continually struggles with the need to provide important services, such as environmentally acceptable wastewater disposal, while at the same time managing the cost to its ratepayers. This is especially important in Montague where the median household income ranked 338th out of 351 Massachusetts cities and towns in the most recent federal census.” So there is some perspective there. Hopefully they will see that and sit back and go through the nine different items; probably the least of which is trying to schedule that the different reports that are required on an annual basis come due all at one time instead of having a staggered series of dates that they become reportable on. Trombley gives overview of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit

Pruitt made a motion to authorize Robert J. Trombley, Superintendent of the WPCF, to sign monthly discharge monitoring reports, and in his absence, the Lead Operator is also authorized to sign. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

CSO Project

Trombley: Quick up-date on the CSO Project. We have our first concrete poured tomorrow on the project. The base slab for the chlorine contact tank, two thirds of it will be poured tomorrow, and the last third of the base will be poured on Friday. They start on the walls next week. They are actually taking some equipment off site now. I think we had fifteen cars and trucks there the other day.

Turners Falls River Culture – Lisa Davol

Davol: We would like to replace or refurbish the sign at the end of the bridge coming from Greenfield into Montague, because it is full of graffiti and it looks terrible, and it is not an appropriate entry sign for the Town. We have an artist, Jack Nelson, who agreed to do it within the guidelines of the official signage. Also, after you cross the bridge, we would like permission for Jack Nelson to do a sign that says entering Turners Falls; some kind of creative welcome to the Village. We were thinking of right after the bridge on the right hand side, somewhere that wouldn't be obstructing the bike path or pedestrians.

Pruitt made a motion that we permit Jack Nelson along with the help of Tom Bergeron to refurbish the sign entering the Town of Montague on the Greenfield side of the white bridge and to replace it, under the auspices of the River Culture. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Pruitt made a motion to commission to Jack Nelson to create a sign following the town's guidelines with signage to mark the entrance to Turners Falls in the Town of Montague at the Canal Street side of the same bridge. Location to be determined and with no financial cost to the Town. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Jon Dobosz, Director, Parks and Recreation

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Jon Dobosz: Described the programs that are available for Spring 2008. Registration is necessary and the earlier the better. Discussion followed regarding the details of the various programs offered. Excellent programs To contact the Parks & Rec. Dept call 863-3216 or at montague.net

**Town Administrator's Report
EMS Service Zone Plan Application**

Abbondanzio: The plan was developed about sixteen months ago and the Fire Districts both signed off on it. It was never brought forth to the SelectBoard. We are about to do that tonight. I received a call from the General Manager of Baystate Health, and he said that the criteria has changed. They have to re do their plans and none of them in Western Mass., except Athol, have been accepted. Actually the new plan has new requirements which are kind of interesting as they deal with response times to various parts of the community, and it is a whole lot more vigorous than examining what you can expect and how you monitor response times to different communities. It also addresses how we pick our ambulance provider, and how we change our provider if we decided we want to do that. Given all the discussions that have taken place with the Turners Falls Fire District, and the possibility of them taking over the ambulance services is a relevant issue anyway. So we are going to have to work with the new materials we never even received, this is the first that I have heard of this. We will go and track down the new format.

Allen: I assume our emergency management folks, Capt. Escott and Chief Godin will spear head this again.

Abbondanzio: They are the ones who did it the first time around, so they would be the typical people who would do that anyway. We just jump start the process again.

Jean Golrick: Outside the ambulance issue that was at the SelectBoard table, I specifically asked about it because it was going to be a joint meeting or some of you were going to the Prudential Committee to discuss it. The response that was given at that time was that it was too early to discuss it; this is only an open conversation. Would you give a status; is it really an open conversation?

Allen: We did go up and we did meet with the Prudential Committee and they gave us information on what they had so far, but then they agreed that they need to do more. We basically said that we agreed with the concept of studying it to see if it made sense to see if it would save us money or not. At this point, we still don't know anymore about that. I think that is going to take six months or something like that for them to come up with some fine tuned numbers, find out all the details they need to know.

Jean Golrick: Will it come again in public before it gets decided?

Allen: Yes. They will probably come down here.

Ross: I think all three of us were at that meeting. The EMS System is really complicated. There is triage, there is training, there is financing, there is billing, there is how it would affect the Town to do that work, and they are interested because potentially there is a fair amount of money involved. Right now the system seems to be functioning quite well with highly trained people, but the money involved is certainly enough and the District has presented to look into it in more detail.

Jean Golrick: The District currently pays for the ambulances that we have in Town, correct?

Allen: We don't pay as a Town. When an ambulance comes, then that individual or his or her insurance pays.

Jean Golrick: So there is no cost to us the Town or us the District right now; it is to the individual parties. Whereas, if we go with our own ambulance, we the Fire District or the Town will be paying?

Allen: No, we would be hiring the people. Right now all of the firefighters, when they get a medical call, which is more than 50 per cent of their calls, go. They respond, they can't transport someone to the hospital, but they are there, and they are apt to do first responder type work, but they get no reimbursement for their time. They can't charge for that, but if they took on the training and became official ambulance personnel that were qualified to do everything, then they would actually, instead of Baystate, be the official group so they would get reimbursed for all

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the work they do plus then transporting. Right now they have the firefighters sitting there going out on calls, but not getting reimbursed.

Further discussion, this issue to be discussed at a later date.

Change Order Request

Pruitt: Made a motion to approve the change order for Renaissance Builders for work done on the Strathmore roof, Building One in the amount of \$10,008.97. Seconded by Ross.

Jean Golrick: Does the \$10,008.97 put us over the \$300,000 budget?

Abbondanzio: No. At this point, with everything accounted for we are somewhere around \$250,000. It might be a little bit more because we are trying to wrap up little things, like if there are any smaller roofs that are leaking or whatever, we are trying to do that or the windows were taken out during the fire, and we ended up closing more windows than we were originally going to

Ross: On occasion I went over with David Jensen to Strathmore to get a little tour of the building and they were still finishing up the roof, so we climbed up and I also saw the paper bales that we are trying to move off the higher floors to make them more transportable. The whole thing seemed kind of scary and kind of dangerous. You are up there and the river is whirling by and there is ice floating down below, so I have to say that I have a lot of respect for those people working up there. They deal with the cold, windy, and probably well below freezing. The building is protected. The remains of it are very habitable with some more attention.

Abbondanzio: Truck #9 was there today. All paper on the fourth floor is now spread out and next they will be working on getting it down to the third level. Unfortunately a lot of it did get wet, so that is another one of those disappointing items.

Sewer Permit Application from Doug Stevens

Abbondanzio: Permit needs to be signed by the Sewer Commissioner. Has been signed by everybody else.

Pruitt made a motion for the Sewer Commissioner to approve the sewer permit for the installation of a sewer in the next two weeks at 389 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, MA by Renaissance Excavators. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Alcoholic Beverage License Enforcement

Abbondanzio: The STING OPERATION has served out a number of under-age serving violations. We are sending out letters to hold hearings on Monday, April 7th with the License Commissioners. There are five of them: Montague Inn, Carroll's Supermarket, Route 63 Roadhouse, Food City and Turners Falls Pizza House. These meetings will be held at a regular Selectmen's meeting.

Thomas Memorial Seasonal License Application

Pruitt: Made a motion to approve the License Renewal Application for 200 8for TMGCC Food Services Corp., better known as the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club, 29 Country Club Lane in Montague, MA. The application has been signed by Kathleen A. Tomaus. . Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.

Montague Business Association Meeting

Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, 2008 from 5:00 – 7:30 PM at The Great Falls Discovery Center.

Town of Montague – Board and Committee Handbook

Abbondanzio: This handbook is something that we may or may not want to do.

Have people had a chance to look at it? A copy is available for community people to look at.

Allen: I wondered if various Department Heads or Boards had had a chance to look at their descriptions because there were some things that seemed to me that changed there as well.

Discussion followed.

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Abbondanzio: This handbook was done a few years ago, and it was brought before the Board in 2004 or 2005. What I was looking for is some language that might help in coming up with policies. I realized we already had something that was very good.

Allen: It has a great base.

Abbondanzio: I just added some of the language that was relevant to some of the discussions that we had relative to the Airport Commission, and having quorums. It has a lot of other things that are really kind of useful to anybody who is getting onto a Board in terms of how to get established as a Board member and knowing about the conflict of interest, laws, etc. It is a very good document. I think people should look at it.

Discussion followed regarding various issues in the Handbook.

Landfill Committee Update

Abbondanzio: The internal people who will be on it from the staff will be myself, DPW Director, possibly the Health Director, the Building Inspector, Chris Boutwell from the Board of Health, Jan Ameen, who is the Solid Waste Management Director, has offered to be a non-voting associate member and Art Gilmore. We are looking at no more than twelve to be on this committee, that is what we had the first time around.

Ross: Of the people that you mentioned, they have a lot of experience. A lot of work was done a few years ago. My suggestion is that a summary be prepared of what happened and transpired, how many responses there were would be helpful to the Board. People think that we are talking about garbage, they have no idea how much money was involved. You should also include in the summary a discussion about what we need to go forward, what direction does a revision of the previous RFPs need to go in, so that we can get started. If this is a sound idea and the Town supports it, it can potentially help us; certainly not in this years' revenue, probably not in next years, but hopefully in the following years. I suggest that we try and get a time table to try and get a working group together.

Discussion about process to be on the Landfill Committee and how to apply.

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John Reynolds: Is there any time table or deadline for future action on that Board and Committee Handbook?

Allen: I think we should get it out right away to the libraries. Do you think two weeks? I think two weeks will be enough for people to make any comments. We'll put them in the libraries and in the Town Hall. Anyone who wants to come and make notes about suggestions, creative, appropriate, positive suggestions, and/or changes they can write them or they can bring them into the Selectmen's Office. How about if we re-discuss it on April 14th?

Ross: I also think the question about the appointments for the Airport Commission – you know exactly what the process is going to be. Eventually it is going to come where we are going to have a discussion about a list of people that presume that the Airport Commission is looked at, they will make some suggestions that we will either by personal interviews, sharing their interviews, or personal communications with the applicants. I have seen six or seven letters and I think we should review those. We set up a criteria that we think we should ask the folks. I think we should do our own interviews. I think the Airport Commission might have their suggestions, preferences and things like that. They should certainly be listened to, but I think we can go ahead and try and come to a conclusion.

Peter: The 14th is when the Airport Commission has its' regular monthly meeting, so I would ask for either the week before or the week after for convenience of the Airport.

Allen: About our policy manual? Or about ?

Allen: We keep bringing up the Airport Commission in all of our discussion. Oh, so we'll move it to Tuesday, April 22nd.

Discussion followed.

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Pruitt made a motion to go into Executive Session for Collective Bargaining. Coming out only to adjourn. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye, Allen – Aye.