

**Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, September 8, 2008**

#37-08

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Meeting was opened at 7 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Allen Ross, Pat Allen and Patricia Pruitt; and Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Wendy Bogusz, Administrative Secretary, Charles Blanker, Southworth; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; David Detmold, Montague Reporter

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**Approve minutes of July 28, 2008**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2008 with corrections, seconded by Pruitt, Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt- Aye*

**Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent**

**Sewer Rate Discussion (given by Frank Abbondanzio) Refers to summary submitted by Trombley**  
Abbondanzio: Without the use of retained earnings, which is like the town's free cash, there would be an increase of 26% in the sewer rates, mostly due to the increase in debt service associated with the combined sewer overflow project. To avoid raising rates at that level (26%) Bob is proposing that we use \$180,000 of sewer retained earnings balance, which currently has a balance of \$216,192. This would lower rates to an increase of roughly 9%. I think it is really critical that we use it to mitigate that serious impact on the sewer rates because of the debt; on the other hand I think the feeling was that we need to keep a balance in that account because we know it is now built into the base. With the 9% increase proposed based on the use of \$180,000 in retained earnings, we're looking at an increase of \$39 per the average sewer user who used about 75,000 gallons per year. There is an article on Town meeting warrant this Thursday requesting use of the \$180,000 in retained earnings which will be applied to the sewer rates

Charles Blanker: I'm not opposed to using the \$180,000, I don't understand why if the overall appropriation for the WPCF is only going up 6% why the sewer rates would go up 29%, if we didn't use the \$180,000 and it goes up 9% if we do use that money? (Refers to Memo from Bob Trombley). When your looking at the numbers that are presented, the percentages don't come to bare out.

Ross: We will have R. Trombley clarify this to you and us.

Blanker inquires whether or not the budget has been set and if so, why weren't they offered a chance to review it prior to it being accepted? Discussion about the process.

Blanker asks if we are over budgeting on purpose to leave money in the sewer-retained earnings account?

Abbondanzio doesn't think so, thinks its more likely that during the year we process more sludge so it pays more and the numbers coming in aren't as low as Bob originally projected. Sludge from other towns being brought in could possibly also have an impact.

Need to ask RT about his figures and he needs to contact C. Blanker and explain

**CSO Update and Change Orders**

Abbondanzio: Change order 4 for the cleaning and coating of the sludge storage tank is an additional \$30,114. The engineers found when the tanks was drained some of the concrete was in worse condition than originally thought, and they felt they could save a lot of money by dealing with it now rather than later because of the form of deterioration.

*Allen makes the motion to approve Change Order 4 for the CSO project in the amount of \$30,114. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye*

Change order 5: Information is not available at this time.

Abbondanzio: Trombley has a request for an amendment to the engineering contract. This is requesting an additional \$75,000 for design costs associated with addressing the code issue that CDM was involved with.

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Board wasn't aware this was going up too. Would like more information on this and would like Paul Gilbert to come to a meeting and bring back the sheets he had the last time, perhaps it was clear on the sheets and the board missed it. Vote on this issue to be held at a later date.

**Jonathan Chappell and Mike Glazier, Skeleton Crew Theater, Use of Peskeompskut Park**

Glazier: Skeleton Crew Theater is an interactive puppet theater (full size). Traditionally what we have done is have a scavenger hunt by asking a series of riddles and give clues and you go from one puppet station to another puppet station. What we are proposing today is to add a theatrical portion to it using the band shell stage, and have a story ½ hour then most of the children would go through the walking paths where we would have our puppets and they could get their clues and riddles through there.

Discussion about when the Rag Shag parade will be held. Mike Glazier to contact Jon Dobosz to try and coordinate this and also contact the Police Chief and explain the event to him.

*Allen makes the motion to approve use of Peskeompskut Park by the Skeleton Crew Theater on Friday October 31 from 3 – 9 pm for their Skeleton Crew in the park festivities commemorating Halloween. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

**Bill Holbrook, Jakes Tavern, Requesting license to place a sandwich board sign in front of Jakes Fence**

There is a request for a sandwich board sign 3-1/2' x 5-1/2' for the sidewalk in front of Jakes fence, 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily. The sign will partially be on his property.

*Allen makes the motion to approve the request to place a sign in the public right of way for Jakes Tavern, Bill Holbrook applicant, the sandwich board 3-1/2' x 5-1/2' from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily and the sign would project onto the sidewalk only 2 feet. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

Ross if sign causes a problem it will have to be removed, there will be 13' of clearance

**Town Administrators Report**

**Award of Contract/Sidewalk Replacement Project**

Abbondanzio: This project started with an appropriation at a town meeting a couple of years ago. The Town went after some Community Development Block Grant Funds so between the two we have close to a half million dollars in sidewalk improvements that are going to be done. The CDBG funded part of it includes sidewalks on Unity Street, Seventh Street and Spring Street. The Town funded side includes sidewalks on Center Street and Union Street in Montague Center, Second Street and Stevens Street in Turners Falls. When we were putting the bid together there were a number of alternates that were added and based on the budget with the money we knew we had available. Bids came in and we can do all of the additional work if we get use of program income to come up with the other \$32,000. The intersection at Scotty's will be improved and made less dangerous. Trees listed with project will be stayed and blacktop will be put over the roots. There is contingency money available.

*Allen makes the motion to award the contract for the base bid and alternates A, B, C and D for the sidewalk replacement project to Caracas Construction Corporation of Ludlow, Mass. in the amount of \$511,545.50. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye*

**Program Income Hearing (Sidewalks) Voted before award of Contract**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the use of \$32000 from the program income account for the CDBG sidewalk replacement particularly by Scotty's intersection. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

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**Correct Appointment at DPW**

*Allen makes the motion to change our original motion of making Joseph Dodge a temporary employee with title of Maintenance and Grounds for the DPW to a permanent position for Joseph Dodge retroactive to August 25, 2008, for 40 hours a week at Grade 3 step 1 at the rate of \$13.96/hour. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye*

**Set Policy for holiday pay for DPW Employees**

To be discussed in executive session later tonight

**Sign MOU for Promoting and Implementing the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan**

*Allen makes the motion to sign the MOU for promoting and implementing the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye*

**Discussion of Invitation from Narragansett Tribe**

Abbondanzio: This is a follow up on the invitation from the Narragansett Tribe to attend the conference in Nashville, Tennessee, as they would like to make plane reservations and they wanted to know who would be available to go. Al Ross will attend this meeting.

Ross: I wanted to be clear that some of the issues in terms of the airport he wasn't prepared to take a position for or against for the Town, but his presentation of trying to help the Town and the tribes develop a site where native American presence and history could be presented in a way that would be respectful and do honor to their history and also work collaboratively with the town. It struck me as being very important. I did check with the Town Clerk on this and she did not see any conflict involved.

*Allen makes the motion that Al Ross represent the Town of Montague at the Narragansett Tribe N.E. Conference in Tennessee. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye*

Allen suggests Al talks with Tim Neuman at Old Deerfield prior to going as he might be very helpful.

**2008 Davidson Fellows Award Recipient**

Abbondanzio: This recognizes August Siena Thomas as a 2008 Davidson Fellow \$25,000 scholarship recipient to further her talents.

Allen would like a short note sent to her recognizing her on her achievements.

**Other:**

First Light sent a letter with change in the power canal outage September 13 – 18, 2008 (bike path) Frank to remind Dan about notification (signage)

**Other**

• **Appointment to Montague Cultural Council**

*Allen makes the motion to appoint Matthew Latkiewicz to the Montague Cultural council for a 3 year term. Pruitt seconded, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

- Letter from the school inviting selectmen to walk in the booster day parade on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Starts at Unity Park between 9:30 – 10:00 AM.

• **Use of Public Property: Prospect Street Block Party**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the use of the bridge on Prospect Street on Saturday, September 13 from 5 PM– 9 PM for the Central and Prospect Street neighborhood association. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross Aye*

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- **Use of Peskeompskut Park**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the use of Peskeompskut Park for the American Youth Fatima Rally on October 11 from noon to 1:00 pm. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Signs need to be put up that identify themselves as sponsors of the event and the town is not a sponsor. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

- Reminder of Town Hall hours that went into effect on August 11, 2008

*Allen makes the motion to go into executive session for collective bargaining and will only come out to adjourn the regular meeting. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye 8:10 PM*

*Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt – Aye*