

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, November 10, 2008  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

#45-08

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Allen Ross, Patricia Pruitt; Patricia Allen, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; David Detmold, Montague Reporter

**Approve minutes of November 3, 2008**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2008, seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously.  
Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross Aye*

**Robert Trombley, WPCF Superintendent**

**Staff Updates**

Trombley: John Little had a motorcycle accident last week and will be out for a while. He has to be released by a doctor before he can return to work. This left the Town with one qualified WWTP Operator to operate the facility. I spoke to Mike Little to see if he was interested in returning temporarily.

*Allen makes the motion to hire Mike Little effective November 6 at the operators grade Step 5 Level 1 at the rate of \$16.30 per hour, the hiring would be of an emergent and temporary nature with no benefits attached to it.  
Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

**CSO Updates**

Trombley goes over handout he provided regarding detailed spending on the project. He believes there will be a little more than \$400,000 left in the project after the code compliance is done and two more amendments that will be coming through. The Project is 93% complete.

**Sewer Abatements**

First half billing has been sent out and presently there are 7 abatements

*Allen makes the motion to approve the abatement for 5 Bridge Street, Millers Falls from \$529.62 to the minimum bill of \$32.00. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to approve the abatement for 75 Fifth Street from \$1,012.68 to \$878.82. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to approve the abatement for 170 Avenue A from \$1,885.68 to \$1,361.88. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to approve the abatement for 1 Avenue A from \$372.48 to \$209.52. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

*Allen makes the motion not to abate the sewer bill for 15 School Street, Montague Center. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross – Aye*

*Allen makes the motion not to abate the sewer bill for 500 Avenue A. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross – Aye*

*Allen makes the motion to approve the abatement for Laurel Lane from \$16,895.46 to \$3,445.44. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt Aye, Ross - Aye*

**Energy Audit**

There will be a meeting on November 21 at 9:00 AM, to talk about issues on hydro-generator projects, Mass. Energy Grants and Rural Development Grants. Bob to look to see if this meeting can be changed to Thursday.

**Lew Collins, Between the Uprights at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Collins: This is basically the same as we have done previously; extending the bar so smokers can bring their drinks out and to help with the traffic flow going from club to club. The bar would be set up the same as previous years,

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there will be ample security; by 1:15 AM everything will be cleaned up and the street will be back to normal. This allows people to have more space inside. A letter has been sent to the tenants advising them of this event.

*Allen makes the motion to grant a special license for Between the Uprights at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for Wednesday, November 26, 2008 set up at 3:00 PM and breakdown at 1:00 AM for their Thanksgiving evening event. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**1 Day Out Door Liquor License**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the use of Public property for Between the Uprights at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for Wednesday, November 26, 2008 from 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM for their Thanksgiving evening event. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Ross – Aye, Pruitt - Aye*

**Josh Hammon, President, Student Council; Brook Hastings, Treasurer Class of 2011, Nicholas Skarzynski, Student Council Treasurer and Class of 2009 Recording Secretary, Lisa Jackson, Officer at Large of Class of 2009 of Turners Falls High School**

Hammons: We thought we would come here similar to what we do with the School committee and update the Town on what is happening at the High School to try and create some communication between the two sources.

Hastings: The Booster Day rally went really well, Turners won the booster day game and there was the parade also. Juniors won booster day and she thanked the Selectmen for participating in the parade.

Skarzynski: Seniors are starting on college applications, student council is doing adopt a family, each classroom is helping out in this event. Students have always been very generous in supporting this event and others.

Jackson: The Student Council and other students at school will be doing bell ringing at Food City for the next month.

Harmon: The Turkey day Rally and bon fire will be held the night before Thanksgiving with the game on Thanksgiving Day and you are all invited. We would like to do community out reach and we are willing to help with Holiday lights in any way we are needed. They will check with Tom Bergeron on this.

Ross: I think this is great that you've come here and it could be done quarterly or monthly but it would great for you to come to these meetings.

Hammon: We would like to come in bi-weekly to meet with the Board. (They will contact Wendy prior to date they want to be on the agenda)

Further suggestions given on ways the students could help and where they could gather information if they need it.

**Town Administrators Report**

**Franklin County Selectmen's Association Quarterly Meeting**

Patricia and Pat will be attending this meeting on Thursday, November 20, at the Tech School

**Municipal Finance Forums**

FRCOG will be holding Municipal Finance Forums on December 2, 2008. Patricia and Pat will attend the 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM session

**Request for support from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)**

*Allen makes the motion to sign the letter dated November 4 supporting Pioneer Valley Planning Commissions application for National Scenic Byway designation for the Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.*

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**Montague Center School Update**

Abbondanzio: The Capital Improvements committee has been discussing the preparation of Request for Proposals for a building reuse facility study. I am currently working on putting that together and should have it available for the next CIC meeting on 11/19.

**Updates**

Abbondanzio: I was also asked to give an update on the Kosuda decision. The courts acted favorably siding with the Town on most issues. Gary Kosuda will be added as a defendant in the underlying action and in the contempt action. Gary Kosuda will not be held liable for Kosudaville's LLC contempt that was a prior occurrence that he hadn't been notified he was being held liable. The Property has been placed in receivership, with an Attorney in Springfield and Kosudaville LLC has been ordered to deposit \$90,000 with the receiver within 7 days. More hearings will be held as soon as practical.

**Bridge Update:**

Abbondanzio: I know when residents from the patch came in about the former R.R. Salvage building there was concern about the Eleventh Street Bridge. There has been no change in the condition of the bridge.

**Landfill Update:**

Landfill advisory meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 7:00 pm. Frank will ask planning Board who they think should be on this committee.

**Sidewalk Update**

We are making progress and are racing against the clock to complete the Community Development Block Grant portion of that project which is Unity Street, Seventh Street and Spring Street Sidewalks. I don't think they will have any problems making that deadline. Last week we had a meeting with the owners of Scotty's and the Engineer and they seem to be happy with the outcome.

**Other**

Ross: Over the past year so much of our discussion has been dominated by how we try to fund the school districts needs, it takes 95% or more of our time that we spend with the Finance Committee. The subject that doesn't get much time at all except on very specific projects is how we can enhance our own economic development. I've mentioned re-looking at the landfill site; because of the size and location of the site, it might not be that easy to develop. As this group meets, I hope they will look at 1) is it developable, 2) what kind of people are really going to be interested in and 3) what is it going to take to do that. If it is not practical or the Town is not really interested in that, the other thought would be what else could that property be used for? If we're really not going to do a landfill in the in the future, what else can it be used for? What we haven't been able to concentrate on directly is how we could generate more revenue for this Town since the population is the same or dropping slightly. Could the bridge behind the Discovery Center be more useful to help market the Strathmore area? If the R. R. Salvage property does eventually change hands and is more developable we should look into this. It would be helpful to have updates on projects that are happening.

Abbondanzio: It seems that the primary alternative right now is going to be some kind of ash residual, not hazardous and the landfill incinerator residue for depositing that landfill seems to be the most logical option. I have been told there are three companies that would be interested in bidding. In terms of the industrial development possibilities, we're working with Northeast Generation folks on the plains. There is a 100-acre possibility and it is looking more and more like it might happen because of the possibilities of the recent land swaps. The ball is in the utilities court in terms of deciding whether they want to sell the property to the Town and for what amount. We're probably talking about a process that is going to take 5 – 10 years before we see any benefits in terms of tax revenues or anything like that.

**Other**

- Ross would like to see the Business Association at one of the Selectmen's meetings to offer their suggestions on things they would like to see done.

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- Allen would like a spending freeze to be put in place because there has been talk that the State may be making cuts in January or February 2009. This will be brought up at the next Finance committee meeting.
  
- Ross: There was communication that took place between the school department and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Ed. I know there was communications from the Gill Selectboard to Wulfson and I also spoke to Wulfson communicating to him that we would have a lot of trouble affording what the current School District expects us to afford. He was quite aware of this and communicated that to the Director of his Department. He also felt that was a consideration they had to acknowledge and they were also concerned because of this budget crunch that they are going to have trouble affording the school budgets as they currently exist. Obviously, he didn't make a commitment of this.

Allen: He had made a straight forward comment about we'd be lucky if they could level fund next years Chapter 70 which is the allocation money.

- The Flu Clinic will be held on November 22 from 10 – 12 at the Turners Falls High School. The police van will be offering rides from the Senior Center every ½ hour

*Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Pruitt, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Ross - Aye*