

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MONDAY, January 4, 2010  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
AGENDA**

**#01-10**

**#1**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Pruitt (absent); Patricia Allen, Mark Fairbrother, Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary Wendy Bogusz, Bill Drake, Montague Reporter, Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder, Jeff Tirrell, WHAI

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Pat Allen as chair for tonight's meeting in Patricia Pruitt's absence. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

**Approve minutes of December 14, 2009**

*Allen makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2009 with corrections. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

**Other**

Calls at the Strathmore over New Years Eve due to a broken sprinkler head and thanks to David Jensen for all his work.

**Chris Janke, Montague Business Association, Request update on G/M Bridge repairs**

Janke: Is looking for information on the upcoming meeting regarding the construction of the Gill Montague Bridge and is curious how the meeting was arranged because he and Pam Kostanski have been in close contact with Rep Kulik's office who knew nothing of the meeting.

Abbondanzio: Heard about it from Tom Bergeron who was approached about it by the contractor. The contractor was floating a trial balloon and asked for a meeting to make a proposal to see if we would be interested in the idea of speeding up the project in terms of the time of completion doing it in 2 years verses 3 or 4 by closing the bridge for two years. My immediate reaction to Tom was, it is never going to work because when we did this back in the late 80's the businesses downtown were seriously impacted. I am prepared to go to the meeting on Wednesday and say how I am against it. I think the contractor wanted to see if there was any support for it or not. The contractor was going to have to go back to the State through Mass. Highway anyway and they may not have been keen on the idea anyways.

Janke just wanted to voice his opinion on the way it was handled, not to blame anyone at the table.

Discussion about bridge repair, traffic

Janke: How substantially is the physical appearance of the bridge going to change?

Abbondanzio: My understanding is it is a historic bridge and shouldn't change much. The town has not been involved in a lot of these plans. Doesn't think Mass Highway will overrule Board of Selectmen on traffic flow.

Fairbrother: We will advocate as strongly as we can to keep the downtown impact as little as possible, while having to realize on the other hand there is going to be some unavoidable serious physical impacts on that bridge that have to happen.

The meeting referred to above on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 was cancelled by the contractor.

**Personnel Board**

**Request to hire Temporary Full Time Police Officer**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to hire Peter Lapachinski to be the temporary full time police officer at Grade 5 step 1 at the rate of \$16.35 per hour effective immediately. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Accept resignation of Dispatcher**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to accept the resignation of David Fortier as Police Dispatcher for the Town of Montague effective on December 28, 2009. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

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**Request to hire Dispatcher**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Jeremy Bernstein as Police **Dispatcher** for 37.69 hours a week at Grade 2, Step 1 at the rate of \$13.50/hour effective immediately. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Other**

Zukowksi: Community room is being used almost every evening by a non-profit group

**Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrators Report**

**Sign Special State Election Warrant**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to sign the Special State Election Warrant on January 19, 2010 for a Senator in Congress. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye*

**Request for appointment to Wells Trust**

*Fairbrother makes the motion to appoint Susan Conger to the Wells Trust as requested by Mr. Graves. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Vote FY10 Tax Bill Mailing Extension**

*Fairbrother makes the motion that the Town of Montague accept Chapter 183 of the Acts of 2009 to extend the time for mailing actual tax bills for fiscal year 2010 until January 30, 2010. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Updates**

Abbondanzio goes over updates of upcoming meetings.

**Other**

Flu clinic scheduled for Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Sheffield school from 10:00 to 2:00 PM.

Fairbrother reminds people about cleaning the sidewalks after a snow storm

Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye