

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013**

*Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Patricia Allen; Town; Selectmen's Secretary Wendy Bogusz; Director of Assessing Barbara Miller; Police Chief Charles Dodge; Jason Burbank; Richard Nathorst of the Leverett Broadband committee; Rob Steinberg, and Kevin Hart; Jeanne Golrick; Finance Committee members Michael Naughton, John Hanold Lynn Reynolds, Sharon Kennaugh; Rachel Brown of Stone Consulting*

Meeting being Taped

**Ms. Allen is participation via remote participation due to geographical location.**

**Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing**

Ms. Miller asked the board to sign the contract and addendum with Mainstream Appraisal Associates, LLC. This contract is for a combined a combined appraisal with the Town of Gill for the First Light Hydroelectric Facilities in Montague and Gill as well as Turners Falls Hydro. Gill has already approved the contract. The primary cost is \$23,489, but the special article to fund this was inadvertently left off the special town meeting warrant so the addendum allows the initial contract sum of \$15,500 from an existing special article balance, with the additional amount to be funded from a future appropriation.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the board approve and authorize the chair to sign the consultant contract and addendum between the Town of Montague and the Town of Gill and Mainstream Appraisal Associates, LLC for technical and professional services for the appraisals of hydroelectric generating properties in the two towns with the first installment to be \$15,500 and pending town meeting approval, an additional payment \$7,989 at the end of the project. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

Ms. Allen gave permission to use her signature stamp.

**Personnel Board**

Ms. Miller asked the Personnel Board to appoint Laura Arruda to the position of Assessor Clerk, Grade 2 Step 1 at \$13.50 per hour effective March 18, 2013. There were 25 applicants for the position, three of which had experience in assessing. Ms. Arruda was the only applicant with experience in data collection, MA general laws, and general assessing.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the board appoint Laura Arruda to the position of Assessor Clerk, Grade 2 Step 1 at \$13.50 per hour effective March 18, 2013. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Allen – Aye*

Chief Dodge asked the Personnel Board to extend Sergeant Suchanek's 111F leave until May 6, 2013. Chief Dodge asked to amend the date to April 1, 2013 and add that if he is ready to come back sooner he may return at that time. Sgt. Suchanek is hopeful that he'll be back in a month. Sgt. Suchanek has been coming in to process firearm licenses while on leave.

*M. Fairbrother moved that the board extend Sergeant Suchanek's 111F leave until April 1, 2013. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Allen – Aye*

Chief Dodge announced that when church is in session cars are disregarding the "No Parking" signs on 7<sup>th</sup> and L Streets and asked residents to obey the signs. Also the high school is having problems with parents making two lines of traffic when there should only be one and parking in the horseshoe closest to the school. Parents should only be in one line in the horseshoe closest to the road.

**Jason Burbank**

Mr. Burbank explained the broadband options for the Chestnut Hill area. Present are Richard Nathorst of the Leverett Broadband committee and the area residents Jason Burbank, Rob Steinberg, and Kevin Hart. A map of the area was presented. The situation in that part of town is that they are severely un-served regarding high speed internet access and have no reasonable options for that. Cable television cannot be streamed over the internet. They have no

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incumbent telecom provider that can provide the services desired. They proposed, following the Leverett model, a municipal broadband system funded by the taxpayers of the betterment district. In the case of Leverett, they formed a town wide municipal lighting district to accommodate this. If Montague were also to form a municipal lighting district it could install the infrastructure via a municipal lighting plant. Leverett's installation cost is \$3,500 per household. An informal poll shows a majority of residents in the area are in favor of this. A municipal lighting plant would be established by town meeting vote. The affected Montague residents would be getting their internet provider service from Leverett. Leverett approved the creation of a municipal lighting plant via town meeting approval to build its own broadband network and a debt override. A municipal lighting plant allows a municipality to be a public utility and provide services like telecommunications or power. This is sometimes the only way for rural areas to get these services.

Ms. Allen asked if, since we already have the Montague Center Lighting District, if we'd be able to include the Taylor Hill area in that district.

The package of services, including phone service, will be competitive with Verizon.

The Selectboard is excited about this and interested in seeing it go forward, but it will take a lot of investigation.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the board endorse this plan. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Allen – Aye*

**Town Meeting**

Mr. Boutwell announced that Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Turners Falls High School Theater. Please be advised that all monetary article submissions for the annual town meeting warrant must be received by Monday, February 25, 2013 at 4:00 PM. All non-monetary article submissions must be received by Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 4:00 PM. All requests must be submitted on the appropriate forms obtained from the Selectmen's office. No further articles will be added to the warrants after these dates. The due date for the special town meeting before the annual for all articles will be 4:00 PM on March 28, 2013.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Communities of Distinction Production contacted the town to see if the town was interested in being featured. Participation would cost \$19,800. This would only be for a 5 minute segment on television. The parties that spoke with the company felt a little duped and are not at all interested.

Mr. Trombley requested authorization to continue to sign monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports to the EPA and DEP on behalf of the Sewer Commission.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the board authorize Robert Trombley to continue to sign monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports to the EPA and DEP on behalf of the Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners through the calendar year 2013. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Allen – Aye*

There has been a public records request by Jeanne Golrick to release Executive Session minutes dated back to 2010. Town Counsel Greg Corbo has advised that the chair review the minutes to see which may be released, and Mr. Boutwell is in the process of that review.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio be authorized to send a letter to Jeanne Golrick notifying her that the requested records are currently being reviewed and any responsive documents will be provided as soon as they are available. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Allen – Aye*

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**Items Not Anticipated Within the 48 Hour Posting Period**

Since we were unable to hold the Special Town Meeting scheduled for last Thursday due to lack of a quorum, the Special Town Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the Sheffield School Auditorium.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting is next week, Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 7 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Hall at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

Mr. Reynolds asked for information about the Pay and Classification Study and feels the information should be available to the public. Rachel Brown of Stone Consulting said typically the process they use is when the positions that are covered under the study are covered under collective bargaining, and are part of strategy, so that if they released results that could have an impact on negotiation, then we present the information to the Selectmen and Finance Committee to address those issues. There would be a final report that would be released to the public. Ms. Golrick asked if town meetings ever get a copy of any of these reports. Ms. Brown said they would get a copy of the report and would have to approve any financial funding needed. Typically what the study would tell you is that based upon a market study, an internal classification, and an external market review of selected communities the consultant recommends where jobs should fall in the salary structure and what the ranges would be.

**Executive Session**

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the Selectmen enter Executive Session under G. L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – Implementing the Pay and Classification Study, Finance Committee invited. Votes may be taken. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen-Aye Boutwell-Aye Fairbrother-Aye*

The chair declares that having the meeting in open session could be detrimental to the collective bargaining. Finance Committee members that will attend the Executive Session are John Hanold, Michael Naughton, Lynn Reynolds, Sharon Kennaugh.

*Mr. Fairbrother moved that the Selectmen enter Executive Session under G. L. Chapter 30A, Section (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the First Light Pedestrian Bridge and easement. Votes may be taken. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen-Aye Boutwell-Aye Fairbrother-Aye*

The chair declares that having the meeting in open session could be detrimental to the town.

The Selectmen will only come out of Executive Session to adjourn.

*Mr. Fairbrother makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM. Seconded by Ms. Allen. Approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Boutwell- Aye*