

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2015 at 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Vice Chair Douglas Belanger, 2nd Vice Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Harry Brooks, Selectman Thomas E. Buckley, III and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment

1. SCHEDULED

a. 6:30pm – Class II License Hearing – Route 9 Auto Group

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to open the Class II License public hearing for Route 9 Auto Group.

Vote by Roll Call:

Provencher - Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

Brooks - Aye

Buckley – Aye

Ms. Provencher read the public hearing notice published in the T&G. Mike Doray with Route 9 Auto Group presented his request for a Class II License to buy and sell used cars at 1323 Main Street. Mr. Belanger noted that this is the location of Classic Auto and asked if this is an add-on to their current license. Mr. Doray noted that they are renting office space and asking for 10 cars. Kristen Forsberg, Assistant to the Town Administrator, added that Classic Auto originally had a 25 car license which was amended to give 10 of these cars to Central Auto Sales. Central Auto has now gone out of business and Route 9 Auto Group is seeking to replace this business. Classic Auto would still retain their 15 car license. Mr. Brooks asked if Route 9 Auto Group currently had cars at this location. Mr. Doray responded they did not but Classic Auto does. Ms. Wilson asked where the cars would be placed on the site. Mr. Doray explained that the site plan was labeled incorrectly and the cars will be along the side of the building for Route 9 Auto Group and along Route 9 for Classic Auto.

A motion was made by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Mr. Brooks to close the public hearing.

Vote by Roll Call:

Provencher - Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

Brooks - Aye

Buckley – Aye

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to issue a Class II license to Route 9 Auto Group with the amendment to the site plan. The motion carried unanimously.

b. 6:30pm – (2) One Day Beer & Wine Permits – Chartwells at Becker College

Mr. Mizikar presented two requests from Chartwells at Becker College for one day beer and wine permits. Ms. Wilson asked if this was for alumni weekend and Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative. Mr. Mizikar noted the requests had been reviewed by PD and there have been no issues with their previous licenses.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to issue two (2) one day beer and wine permits to Chartwells at Becker College for October 23rd and 24th. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Senior Center Donation

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to accept the Senior Center donations. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Energy Aggregation Update

Mr. Mizikar provided an update on the electricity aggregation with the Hampshire COG as approved at Town Meeting. Unfortunately, the initial application was denied by the State and the Hampshire COG is no longer pursuing electricity aggregation. The Town will have to consider other proposals in the future for electricity aggregation which the vote at Town Meeting would allow. Mr. Belanger asked if Mr. Mizikar had reached out to the company Colonial Power identified in the letter. Mr. Mizikar responded that he had not but had received a number of solicitations and will review them. One of the criteria will be the company's ability to use the materials the Town has already provided.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignations

None

b. Appointments

i. EMT Basic – Kristopher Mastromatteo

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to appoint Kristopher Mastromatteo to the position of per diem/on call EMT Basic subject to the Town's hiring policies. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Mizikar noted a few changes have been made to Article 2, primarily due to the proposed IMA with the Town of Spencer for Animal Control and Inspection services. Article 4 is no longer required and can be passed over. Article 5 is still being reviewed in light of additional costs to remove the solar panels on the high school roof. The estimated cost of the roof project to the Town is \$1,031,000 after the grant. Mr. Belanger asked why there is a cost for removing the solar panels. Mr. Mizikar responded that there is a section in the Power Purchase Agreement which limits the solar company's obligation to remove solar panels to 4,000 square feet or less and the roof is approximately 96,000 square feet. Mr. Mizikar stated he will commit to not asking taxpayers to pick up this additional cost. Article 7 will be passed over as the Town can cover the cost of these additional repairs to the truck.

d. Animal Control Officer/Inspector of Animals Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Spencer

Mr. Mizikar presented a draft agreement with the Town of Spencer for shared Animal Control and Animal Inspection services for the Board's consideration. Mr. Mizikar has been working with the Town of Spencer over the past few months to draft this agreement. As proposed, the Town of Leicester would be the host community for the full time Animal Control Officer and Spencer would reimburse the Town for half of the ACO's salary and contribute to general costs. The ACO would manage the Spencer shelter and animals would be housed there at no cost to the Town. The Town of Spencer would provide the Inspector of Animals and an Alternate Animal Control Officer for both Towns, neither of which the Town currently has, at no additional cost to taxpayers. Mr. Mizikar would like to finalize this agreement by January 1st. The Spencer Board of Selectmen is also considering this agreement for the first time this evening. Mr. Brooks asked about the length of the agreement. Mr. Mizikar responded the idea was 1 year with the

ability to be extended but either party can terminate the agreement with 90 days' notice. Ms. Provencher asked how safe our animal control vehicle is. Mr. Mizikar responded that the vehicle needs to be replaced and was part of the capital plan but was not funded last year. Mr. Mizikar will be looking to this year's capital plan for funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Spencer for Animal Control and Inspector of Animal Services. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Review and Consider Lease Purchase Proposals – Energy Management Project

Mr. Mizikar introduced David Eisenthal with Unibank who discussed the financing mechanism for the energy upgrade project approved at Town Meeting. The Town solicited bids and received 5 proposals from 4 firms. TD Equipment A is the apparently low bidder at \$74,119 (including the additional cost of the Town Hall windows) but there are questions about the terms of the provisions which must be clarified before a bidder can be selected. Mr. Mizikar asked the Board for their approval to negotiation with the low bidders and sign any rate lock agreements. Mr. Belanger asked if we can minimize our liability if the Town's bond rate decreases. David Eisenthal noted that issues such as this will be discussed when negotiating the terms of the financing agreement. Mr. Belanger asked about timing. Mr. Mizikar responded that the goal is to have funding in place by November 10th.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate with the energy management project lease purchase proposal low bidders and execute a rate lock agreement. Under discussion Mr. Belanger asked if the final agreement would come back to the Board for a vote. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative. Mr. Brooks asked what happens if the rates are lower 30 days after the rate lock agreement is signed. Mr. Eisenthal responded that this would be a subject for negotiation as well. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

a. Regional Dispatch Center Update

The City of Worcester has made a verbal commitment to cover the cost of dispatch services as of January 1st due to delays in opening the regional emergency communications center. Mr. Mizikar has adjusted revenues in the budget accordingly in Article 2. The current agreement with the dispatchers runs through January 31, 2016 so an amendment will need to be done. The City will provide a formal notice in writing that they will be taking on the services within 60 days. Ms. Wilson asked about the radio grant. Mr. Mizikar responded that the State 911 grants have not yet been released and the Town will be spending funds from our budget to address the police radio issues in part while waiting.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar provided highlights from his written report.

6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Buckley had a great time at the apple festival and thanked the Mother's Club for putting it on.

Mr. Brooks stated there was a ribbon cutting ceremony today at 3:30pm at the Primary School for the new playground and thanked all who donated their time and materials.

Ms. Wilson noted that haz mat day at the recycling center is October 31st from 9-12 and the Veterans Breakfast is November 12th at 9am at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson reminded residents that Trick or Treating hours are from 5-7pm on October 31st.

7. MINUTES

a. October 5, 2015

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Belanger to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21A

No executive session was held.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks at 7:48pm. The motion carried unanimously.