

Sturbridge Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2011
Town Hall
7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm with the following members present: Kevin Smith (KS), Mary Redetzke (MR), Arnold Wilson (AW), Prescott (Scott) Arndt (SA), Patricia Affenito (PA), Richard Volpe (RV), Larry Morrison (LM) and Mike Serio (MS).
Members Absent: Robert Williams (RW).

Motion to recess in Conference Room 2 and reconvene in Veteran's Memorial Hall made by AW, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0.

Motion made to approve the 4-7 minutes made by MR, seconded by PA. Vote 7-1-0.
Motion made to approve the 4-12 minutes made by SA, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0.

Invited Guest: Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SGQ), Planning Board Chairwoman
Also present: Charlie Blanchard (CB), Planning Board member.

SGQ is present to discuss the zoning amendments on the ATM Warrant (**version 4-12-11**):

Article 26-Proposed Zoning Amendment-Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, & 13-Design Review Guidelines: motion to approve as written made by MR, seconded by AW. Vote 7-0-1.

Article 25-Proposed Zoning Amendment-Chapter Three: Floodplain District: motion to approve as written made by AW, seconded by MR. Vote 7-0-1.

Article 27- Proposed Zoning Amendment-Chapter Twenty-General Regulations: General discussion: SGQ states that a formal agreement needs to exist between owners but that neither the 300 ft. nor the 600 ft. limit are being enforced because the town needs to be understanding with regards to existing parking constraints. For example, the Sturbridge House and Arland Tool and Die have an agreement. KS asks who validates the agreement? SGQ says that Jean Bubon verifies these agreements. KS says the parking needs to stay within the commercial tourist district, SGQ says yes. The Article is amended by deleting the word 'incorporate' and changing it to 'add' in the heading just above section 20.21. Motion to approve as amended Article 27 made by AW; seconded by RV. Vote 7-0-1.

Article 28-Zoning Bylaw Amendment-Zoning Map (704 Main Street): General discussion: SGQ says this change would remove 4.5 acres from industrial acreage because they are not suitable for industrial purposes; the hope is that this

will augment open space in Town; there are possible vernal pools on the property. MR asks since it being changed to residential, will town sewer and water be extended? CB says no, these services stop at the hotel. Motion to approve as written made by AW, seconded by MR. Vote 7-0-1.

Article 29- Zoning Bylaw Amendment-Zoning Map (5 Haynes Street): General discussion: KS asks why is the change being proposed? SGQ says this will allow more options to be explored for this building. KS asks what is the timetable for the completion of the Town Master Plan? SGQ answers that it will be adopted shortly; the Planning Board has seen most of the plan. KS states that the Fin. Comm. met with the BOS to discuss the Memorandum of Findings about the FY11 budget process about tightening restrictions with regards to the appearance of structures around the town common. Motion to approve as written made by MR, seconded by RV. Vote 6-1-1.

Article 32-General Bylaw Amendment-Design Review Committee: General discussion: KS asks if this article is primarily to slow development? SGQ and CB both say that the new text goes well beyond the previous version. There are visuals in the manual with preferred planting and building shapes. SGQ says this article puts professionals on notice that design review is necessary. LM gives a brief history of design review in Sturbridge; he makes the point that the intent was to build 21 days in to the calendar for further review of plans. SGQ says good design is good design but that the manual does not encourage cookie-cutter design. Motion to approve as written made by AW, seconded by MR. Vote 7-0-1.

Line Item Budget:

Safety Complex (pg. 5): MR feels the furniture in the entryway of the police dept. is in need of replacement. She presents options for carpet and chairs that total \$2550 and says that these figures were never received by Betterment. This amount is added to line 64. Motion to approve lines 64 and 65 made by PA, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0.

Police Department (pg. 6): there is some discussion about the Quinn Bill; the take-away is the town is funding 100% of its obligation at 50%. MR says that police dept. overtime has decreased about \$10,000 because some overtime was not charged and there was carry-over in error from a previous year. Motion is made to approve lines 68 and 69 by PA, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0. Motion to amend line 70 to \$218,865 made by PA, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0. Motion to approve lines 71, 72, and 73 made by PA, seconded by MR. Vote 8-0-0.

Fire Department (pg. 6): motion made to approve lines 74, 75 and 76 made by PA, seconded by MR. vote 7-0-1. Motion made to approve lines 77, 78 and 79 made PA, seconded by MR. vote 7-0-1.

ATM Warrant (version 4-14-11):

Article 8-Community Preservation-Memorial Conference Rooms (pg. 5 of 38): The word 'Congressional' should be removed from the text. Motion to approve as amended made by AW, seconded by MS. Vote 8-0-0.

Article 17-Betterment Committee (pg. 14 of 38): AW suggests reallocating \$1300 (for the cement slab under the picnic table) for sidewalk maintenance. AW then suggests leaving the \$1300 and moving \$700 from the Veteran's Memorial request to sidewalk maintenance. The next item discussed is the training of four divers and the purchase of corresponding equipment for \$4500. This article is on hold.

Article 24-Water Department Capital Request-Surplus Emergency Generator near Well #5 (pg. 19 of 38): motion to approve as written made by MR, seconded by RV. Vote 8-0-0.

Article 30-General Bylaw Amendment-Composition of Sturbridge Tourist Association (pg. 26 of 38): motion to reconsider made by MR, seconded by RV. Vote 7-0-1. Second motion to approve as written made by MR, seconded by RV. Vote 7-0-1.

Article 31- General Bylaw Amendment-Snow and Ice Removal (pg. 27 of 38): motion to reconsider made by MR, seconded by RV. Vote 8-0-0. Motion to approve as amended made by MR, seconded by MS. Vote 8-0-0. The text is amended by striking "for sidewalks located within a state highway layout".

Article 37-Grant of Easement-Burgess School (pg. 32 of 38): LM state this consists of National Grid digging a tunnel for the installation of wires. Motion to approve as written made by LM, seconded by AW. Vote 8-0-0.

Special Town Meeting Warrant (version 4-12-11):

Article 36-Repair Police Department Garage Floor: motion to approve as written made by MR, seconded by PA. Vote 8-0-0.

Article 38-Waste Water Treatment Plant Chemical Costs: motion to approve as written made by MS, seconded by RV. Vote 8-0-0.

There is general discussion about the topics for the Finance Committee Report. The last four meetings were initially put aside for writing this report but the 4/26 meeting is with the BOS and the 4/28 meeting is set aside for the STA and possibly the Charter Review Committee.

Motion to adjourn made by KS at 10:20 pm. Vote 8-0-0.