

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE  
Government Services Study Committee (GSSC)  
Minutes of May 17, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. A. Smith was absent.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of March 15, 2013 by Mr. Levine, seconded by Ms. Redetzke. Vote was 4 – 0

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Levine stated that he was impressed with the detail and background material issued in the Fire Department Report. He did state that he thought that parts of the study were too personal.

Ms. Gimas stated that the Fire personnel have accepted Chief Ford as in charge. Chief Ford is working on changing the scheduling in order to cut back the overtime.

**PRESENTATION BY MS. BEAUCHEMIN – DIRECTOR OF THE SENIOR CENTER**

Ms. Beauchemin thanked the Committee for inviting her to speak.

Ms. Beauchemin stated the following:

- She deals with the building – it's an old building – whatever happens I try to make it better
- Just had to replace the water heater - \$900 – not in the budget
- Automatic doors – would like to replace both doors and have them done at the same time – has three proposals
- Would like to expand the medical transportation – elder bus and the volunteer system
- Would like to provide more exercise programs
- Provides 4,000 meals on wheels – any senior over 65
- Five part-time employees – that's not counting the exercise staff

The Committee had the following questions, suggestions and comments:

- Seniors complain not enough services – how many used the transportation for the Annual Town Meeting? – Ms. Beauchemin stated seven
- Ask the Committee for support when making a wish list to the BOS
- Look into regional services
- Look into local hotels with pools to support a senior water program

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Levine stated that he was upset that this Committee did not see the Fire Report before it went public. He felt that the Committee should have been able to make their presentation to the BOS before the BOS held their open meeting with Chief Senecal.

## **SHAUN SUHOSKI – TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

The Committee asked Mr. Suhoski for his five year plan.

Mr. Suhoski stated that following:

- Master Plan – CTD Plan – bring businesses back – focus on development
- Access of the river – good for the businesses and the community
- Destination for restaurants – bring people from all over
- School system – good vocational system – Employers look at that
- Regionalized with the school on the Town's computer systems – working well
- Working on bringing the Building Inspector to full time – the position will include being a Facilities Manager also
- Wastewater Treatment – newly improved capacity is better for the Town and better for business

The Committee had the following concerns and questions:

- Why was this Committee not involved with the Fire Department report? – this Committee pushed for this report to happen – Mr. Suhoski stated that the contract was between the BOS and TA – he thought the Committee had seen the report first – he apologized for the Committee not seeing it first
- The Committee is upset about Mr. Suhoski not returning phone calls
- How do we get residents involved in committees?

Mr. Levine stated that he is moving and will have to leave this Committee, would like to stay as an ad hoc member, if possible.

Ms. Gimas asked Mr. Suhoski to advertise for two openings for this Committee. Mr. Smith's job makes it very hard for him to make any meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Committee will make a year-end report to the BOS on June 24, 2013.

**Next Meeting**

Friday, June 7, 2013 at 2:30 PM.

On a motion by Ms. Redetzke, and seconded by Ms. Gimas, and voted unanimously, the Committee adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Trapasso, Secretary