

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Government Services Study Committee (GSSC)
Minutes of June 7, 2013

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

Also present was Mr. Edmonds, a resident, and Mr. Semon, reporter from the Telegram & Gazette.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of May 17, 2013 by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Arndt. Vote was 4 – 0

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Levine questioned the defeat of the \$10,000 appropriation at the Annual Town Meeting. His understanding was that the money was never for just a police study.

Ms. Gimas stated that the request of that sum of money was never earmarked, but was for a general fund, to be used for any department that may need consultant review.

The Committee was disappointed that the \$10,000 was defeated, but was glad the \$1250.00 for secretarial services was approved because they believe that the residents understand the Committee's mission.

DISCUSSION OF YEAR-END REPORT FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Committee decided to present their year-end report to the BOS on Monday, June 17, 2013. The Report will focus on the high points and outline the accomplishments.

The Committee agreed upon the following in the report:

- Mission statement
- Brief description of the first three months
- How they met with the different department heads (list each one)
- Mention that each department recommended the need of an IT and building/vehicle maintenance person for the Town
- Talk about consolidation: Land Use – Recycling Center

The Committee realizes that there is still a lot of work and research that needs to be done with consolidation of Land Use and the Recycling Center.

The Committee had high praise for Chief Ford and what he has done in the Fire Department to date.

DIRECTION FOR NEXT PROJECTS

The Committee agreed on the following for future goals:

- Police Department study
- Costs in Fire Department may go down with reconfiguring the schedules – reducing overtime. New Chief will restructure the department.
- Address the question of regionalizing the BOH
- Investigate a Municipal lease program for vehicles

The Committee believes that the different Town departments know that the GSSC is a place for support and is examining their needs in order to effect more efficient operations.

For the day to day needs for their departments, they should go to Mr. Suhoski, Town Administrator.

The Committee needs to ask Mr. Suhoski to post for two openings on the GSSC. Mr. Levine will be leaving since he is moving to another Town, and Mr. Smith is resigning because of his workload.

The Committee will invite Mr. Gaudette, Town Administrator of Spencer, to a meeting in August to talk about the consolidation of Spencer's Land Use Division.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Levine thanked the Committee for their leadership and always being focused on what is best for the Town. Mr. Levine stated that he was honored to serve on this Committee and wished the membership all the best in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee will make a year-end report to the BOS on June 17, 2013.

Next Meeting

Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2:30 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Levine, and seconded by Ms. Redetzke, and voted unanimously, the Committee adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Trapasso, Secretary

