

December 10, 2001

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 2001**

Present:     Arnold Wilson, Chairman  
              George Dib  
              Charles Blanchard  
              Doris Sosik  
              James Malloy, Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:**   To approve the minutes of December 3, 2001 as amended,  
                  by C. Blanchard.  
      **2<sup>nd</sup>:**    **G. Dib**  
      **Vote:** All in favor.

**Police Chief Thomas Button – Monthly Report**

Chief Button read his report to the Board (copy on file). A. Wilson commented on the increase in motor vehicle citations. Chief Button said that grant money has made it possible for the police to increase patrols, which resulted in an increase in citations.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> Chief Button and Sgt. Curboy attended an inter-agency, multi-town Emergency Management Preparedness workshop at Harrington Hospital called TRI-EPIC.

Chief Button contacted the Webster Police Department for input regarding their crosswalk policy, and he is working on a program for enforcement. Larry Adams, Town Planner, sent a letter to Mass. Highway regarding the crosswalk at the Senior Center. D. Sosik thanked the Chief for following up on this matter.

C. Blanchard asked whether there were any figures on the Town's status regarding OUI arrests. Chief Button said that of the arrests made last year, Sturbridge had a 71% conviction rate.

**Fire Chief Leonard Senecal – Monthly Report**

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Chief Senecal read his report to the Board (copy on file). He informed the Board that he has been working on budget issues. G. Dib noted that on the Monthly Fire Call list there were calls for two smoke scares and two alarm calls at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. Chief Senecal said that for one of the calls, someone had lit a yule log in a non-working fireplace.

### **Barbara Barry, Treasurer/Collector – Quarterly Report**

Barbara Barry read her report to the Board (copy on file). She said that she is currently working on the FY03 budget packet to be issued to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen during the week of December 17, 2001. The upgrade of the MUNIS software is continuing on schedule. She is in the process of preparing for the Town to issue bonds in March, estimated at approximately \$5.5 million and will include bonding the balance of expenditures for the Phase II project that were ineligible to be funded through the SRF, the Phase III sewer project, the Southbridge sewer connection and the water system improvements project.

She suggested that the Board consider putting more money into the stabilization fund, and noted that the stabilization fund money earns interest. She recommended that there be a goal of 10% of the Town's budget in the stabilization fund.

D. Sosik commended Barbara Barry on doing a wonderful job.

Since Jean Joel was absent due to illness, B. Barry reviewed her report for the Board. Free cash as certified by the Dept. of Revenue in the amount of \$1,439,372. In November J. Joel attended two conferences entirely devoted to GASB 34 implementation: the first by the Dept. of Revenue, the second by the Mass. Municipal Auditors' & Accountants' Association. She intends to begin gathering information and bringing the fixed assets onto the books in the near future. J. Malloy said that Bob Brown of R.E. Brown, auditors, recommended that a minimum of \$15,000 be included in fixed assets.

### **Correspondence**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 26 | Edward Goldstein, Regional Director of Government Relations, Charter Communications – Regarding channel changes effective on Dec. 11, 2001. |
| Nov. 27 | Irene Lee, The Light of the Tri-Community – Announcing its annual Christmas Project to help needy families in the area.                     |

- Nov. 29      Matthew Amorello, Commissioner, Mass. Highway Dept. – Regarding their action to take the Haynes Street Bridge back into state highway jurisdiction.
- Dec. 3        Mary-Jo Griffin, Commissioner, ABCC – Notice regarding their review of the liquor license application for Fiskdale Village Tavern, Inc.
- Dec. 4        Diane King, Rural Development Specialist, USDA – Copy of a letter sent to Jay O'Reilly, Tighe & Bond indicating that the Environmental Report will serve as the Environmental Assessment regarding the sewer projects.
- Dec. 4        Ann Marie Argitis – Requesting that the Finance Committee include \$1,000 in next year's budget for the Adopt-a-Pot Program.
- Dec. 5        Senator Stephen Brewer – Indicating his strong support of the TIF Agreement for G & F Industries Inc.
- Dec. 6        T. Philip Leader – Copy of a letter sent to Mary-Jo Griffin, ABCC accepting the approval of the liquor license application for Fiskdale Village Tavern, Inc. subject to the special conditions outlined in her notice of Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Dec. 7        Police Chief Thomas Button – Regarding complaints about Lee Lataille's dogs at 77 Farquhar Road.

### **The Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village**

**MOTION: To approve the Common Victualler License for The Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village, by G. Dib.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Special Town Meeting**

J. Malloy informed the Board that he had spoken with Pete Culmo at CME Engineering regarding the estimate for the bath house, and he confirmed that he used the Means Book on estimating, which uses prevailing wage rate for construction cost basis. Lynne Girouard also independently contacted CME and confirmed this information.

**MOTION: To recommend approval of the article as written, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Town of Brookfield Proposal**

J. Malloy created a worksheet that compared the costs of the current school budget formula vs. the Town of Brookfield proposal. His review of the Regional School District Agreement would require unanimous approval of the member towns. He said that the Chairman of the Finance Committee from Brookfield will appear before the Board in January, along with Rosemary Joseph. A. Wilson added that Paul Gillen would attend also.

### **Senior Municipal Service Program**

**MOTION: To approve the work plans for Rita Choquet to work at the Senior Center for the Council on Aging Director, and for Alice Parks to work at the Police Department for Sgt. Curboy, by G. Dib.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Blanchard**

**Vote: All in favor.**

J. Malloy announced that there is still funding available for seniors who are interested in participating in the Senior Municipal Service Program.

### **CMRPC Study**

The CMRPC was working on a proposal to study the impacts of a casino, which Bill Scanlon at CMRPC thought could be done between \$12,000 and \$20,000. This would require a town meeting appropriation, and would be good to keep in mind as the appeal process progresses, especially if the Bureau of Indian Affairs reverses itself and provides a positive finding.

G. Dib highlighted the different impacts on the area contained in the casino impact study, including economic, housing, public safety, school, fiscal impact analysis, municipal water and sewer systems, transportation, community character and environmental.

### **Miscellaneous**

## **New Water Supply Source Agreement**

**MOTION:** To authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement between the Town of Sturbridge and Tighe & Bond Engineering dated June 1, 2001, by C. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** G. Dib

**Vote:** All in favor.

J. Malloy received a call from a resident on New Boston Road who complained that a neighbor had used a snow blower to blow the snow onto the road, creating a hazard. Mr. Malloy announced that blowing or shoveling snow onto the road is illegal and offenders could be fined by the Police Department.

J. Malloy provided the Board with an action summary regarding Pizzeria Uno's request for a Pledge of Liquor License to Fleet National Bank. They have received pre-approval from the ABCC.

**MOTION:** To approve the Pledge of License for Pizzeria Uno, by C. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** G. Dib

**Vote:** All in favor.

## **Old Business**

C. Blanchard announced that there will be a Fiskdale Park Study Committee meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

A. Wilson requested the Board's approval on the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Community Compact.

**MOTION:** To authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Community Compact, by G. Dib.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** D. Sosik

**Vote:** All in favor.

A. Wilson asked about the status of the pump station for Farquhar Road. J. Malloy said that it had been tested and has been working as of last Thursday afternoon.

## **New Business**

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G. Dib said that the last School Committee meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Wales Elementary School.

G. Dib received a call from a resident who asked why Sturbridge did not put holiday decorations on Route 20. He informed her that the Town does not decorate Rt. 20 because it is a state road. He noted that the businesses on Rt. 20 do a good job of decorating on their own.

C. Blanchard announced that there will be a Nativity Pageant on the Town Common on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

D. Sosik read a letter from the Light of the Tri-Community, requesting donations for the needy and for volunteers to help in their annual effort. Judy Knowles confirmed that the information has been posted on the Community Calendar. J. Malloy offered to post it on the Town's Website.

A.Wilson reminded residents about the Special Town Meeting to be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Burgess Elementary School.

A.Wilson announced that the Board has been invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Corridor Breakfast to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at 7:30 a.m. at The Lodge at Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury, Connecticut.

A.Wilson said that he did not think that the Board needed to receive copies of checks accompanying applications. It was the consensus of the Board that it was unnecessary for them to receive copies of checks.

J. Malloy said that the Town Moderator had asked whether the request under Article 78 was a legal expenditure. He noted that there were restrictions on the Board of Selectmen using funds to attempt to change the results of an election. Mr. Malloy said that since this is not an election, that does not apply. Town Counsel had sent an email recommending that the Board submit a substitute motion: "That the Town vote to transfer from free cash and appropriate Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$9,800.00) to the Board of Selectmen's Purchased Services Account #11222-52000 for the purpose of representing the Town's interests in relation to the potential establishment of a gaming casino in Sturbridge."

**MOTION: To use that wording in the Selectmen's substitute motion, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

A.Wilson noted that the Board has not voted on exactly how the money will be expended. C. Blanchard said that the first issue is to give everyone an understanding of what the Board will do with the money. D. Sosik suggested that it be viewed as strategy planning money. If the Nipmucs receive federal recognition, they are prepared to move ahead quickly; if the Town waits until then, it may be too late. G. Dib said that the tone of the book "Without Reservation" is that the people in the town had no idea what was going on until it was too late. He urged the Board not to wait until the final Nipmuc finding is released before taking action.

J. Malloy informed the Board that Chief Button wants to plan ahead to replace his secretary, Becky Hulyk, who has provided her letter of resignation to be effective on March 4, 2002. She will stay on as a part-time dispatcher.

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Becky Hulyk as the Public Safety secretary, effective March 4, 2002, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Ask the Selectmen**

A.Wilson took a call from Larry Morrison, who stated that he had not made any input to the Finance Committee. J. Malloy had provided information to Kevin Smith.

**MOTION: That the Board enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, and Paragraph #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property, not to reconvene in open session, by A.Wilson.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**

**Roll call vote: All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date