

December 17, 2001

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2001**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Hal White
 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 10, 2001 as submitted, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Three in favor; H. White abstained.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of December 10, 2001 as submitted, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Three in favor; H. White abstained.

Building Inspector's Monthly Report

J. Malloy read Mark Lev's report to the Board (copy on file). C. Blanchard noted that a few years ago M. Lev had reviewed the issue of signs taking up a certain amount of space in a window; he requested that M. Lev do that again.

Greg Morse, DPW Director and Paul Donahue and Roy Wood, U.S. Filter/EOS – Monthly Reports

G. Morse read his report to the Board (copy on file). They cut and removed old pavement from buried drainage manholes on Arnold Road and repaved to prevent plows from hitting them. They graded South Shore Road for water control.

P. Donahue read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that they replaced failed auger bearings in the pug mill at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and replaced worn piston packing in sludge pump #2.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the odor problem at Burgess Elementary School. G. Morse said that he and Jay O'Reilly of Tighe & Bond met with Burgess Principal John Riley, and there was no odor present at that time. A charcoal filter was installed. C. Blanchard suggested that the traps be maintained, and to give John Riley a checklist to fill out to keep a record of the situation. D. Sosik said that there is a noticeable odor on some mornings outside in the rotary area and the mini park.

Correspondence

- Nov. 29 James Johnson, Director of Accounts, Mass. Dept. of Revenue – Notification of certification of free cash of \$1,439,372 for the Town of Sturbridge.
- Dec. 6 Rita Moran, Vice President, Mass. Electric – Invitation to a luncheon at the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show on Friday, January 11, 2001 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.
- Dec. 7 Senator Stephen Brewer – Regarding correspondence that he received from David Tuttle, State Director of the USDA Rural Development Office informing him that the Town of Sturbridge's request for assistance has been given a favorable preliminary determination and will be notified by the USDA Holden Office when funding commitments have been made.
- Dec. 12 John Hoffman, Chairman, Conservation Commission – Copy of a letter sent to William Swiacki regarding the Brook Hill subdivision plan.

MOTION: **To send a letter to William Swiacki in support of the request that the land be designated as contiguous open space to be conveyed as a gift to the Town of Sturbridge Conservation Commission in perpetuity as conservation land under the care and management of the Sturbridge Conservation Commission and that said designation be recorded on the deed, as outlined in the letter sent to him from the Conservation Commission, by C. Blanchard.**

2nd: **D. Sosik**

Vote: All in favor.

Resignation

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Sylvia Sheldon from the Council on Aging with regret, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Personnel Committee

J. Malloy submitted to the Board information from the last Personnel Committee meeting including the following actions taken by the Committee:

- Denied the request for additional clerical assistance for the Council on Aging Director.
- Approved recommending that the Town Clerk's wages be adjusted over the next three years by \$2,500 per year and the CPI.
- Approved adding 6 hours per week to the hours of the Assistant Town Clerk.
- Approved a new wage scale for FY03 and adjustments to be made prior to merit increases for FY03.

Mr. Malloy wanted the Board to be aware that Section 5-3(M) of the Town Charter provides the Board of Selectmen 30 days to accept or reject the wage scale for FY03 or it automatically becomes effective. The spreadsheet entitled "FY03 Proposed Wage Scale" (copy on file) shows the FY02 survey data and FY02 current actual wage scale and the proposed FY03 wage scale. The second spreadsheet entitled "FY03 Wage Adjustments" (copy on file) shows the adjustments that would need to be made to bring all employees up to the minimum within the proposed wage scale for FY03.

H. White noted that there are some significant adjustments based on survey information.

MOTION: To approve the FY03 Wage Scale submitted by the Town Administrator dated 12/14/01, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Fire Department

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a letter from the Fire Chief about an issue that the Fire Inspector has had with the Sturbridge Bistro on Route 20 regarding compliance with the State Fire Code (copy on file). Mr. Malloy spoke with Town Counsel regarding this matter. The Board of Selectmen has the authority as the Local Licensing Authority to suspend a liquor license for this type of violation. Town Counsel and the Fire Chief indicated that more towns are using this mechanism to force compliance as opposed to the court system, because it is faster and more effective. Mr. Malloy recommended that the Board set a hearing date for either the first or second meeting in January.

MOTION: To hold a hearing on the Sturbridge Bistro's State Fire Code violations during the second meeting in January to discuss whether or not to suspend their liquor license for failure to comply with the fire laws, by H. White.

2nd: A. Wilson

Vote: Three in favor; C. Blanchard abstained.

Paul Kolesnikovas – First Night Sturbridge

Paul Kolesnikovas, Chairman of the First Night Sturbridge Committee, provided the Board with an update regarding First Night activities, which will start at 4:00 p.m. on December 31st and continue until midnight. The purchase of a First Night button will give the button holder admission to all of the events. The buttons cost \$4.00 each, \$3.00 for students and seniors through December 25th; starting on December 26th the price will be \$5.00 for everyone. They are available at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, Sturbridge Senior Center, Sovereign Bank, Hebert Candies, Shaw's Market, Video Studio 20, Paoletti's, Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge Information Center and Stop & Shop on Rt. 20. They will also be available in Southbridge at the Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge Savings Bank, Big Bunny and Southbridge Wireless; in Charlton at the Moonstruck Café; and in Holland at Video Studio 20.

D. Sosik commended the First Night Sturbridge Committee for the outstanding job that they have done in organizing the events.

Charlie's Beer Bar and Steakhouse – Change in d/b/a on Liquor License

MOTION: That the Board vote to change the d/b/a for Charlie's Beer Bar and Steakhouse to The Orchard, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Restaurant Associates, Inc. – Liquor License Fee

J. Malloy informed the Board that Albert Cournoyer had sent a letter requesting that the Board grant a refund to Restaurant Associates, Inc. for their 2002 liquor license renewal fee of \$1,000, since Old Sturbridge Village has obtained their own liquor license for the premises and Restaurant Associates Inc. will no longer manage the property.

MOTION: To refund the \$1,000 renewal fee to Restaurant Associates Inc. for the 2002 liquor license, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Goal Setting Session

A. Wilson and J. Malloy provided the Board with their proposal and specific goals for discussion with the full Board (copy on file). The proposal would go into effect in January. The Board agreed to review it, and will discuss it at the next meeting on January 7, 2002.

Old Business

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Senior Center project. J. Malloy said that the project has been completed, and there was some funding left over. The contractor did not provide prevailing wage schedules as they were required to do.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Self-Help grant. J. Malloy said that the application has been completed by Nancy Ryder and appraisals have been done. The grant will be submitted next week.

C. Blanchard announced that the Sturbridge Historical Society voted to donate \$500.00 to the Trustees of Reservations to help them with the purchase of the two-acre Crowd Archeological site on Leadmine Road.

C. Blanchard announced that Bob Briere is going to have surgery, and on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, he extended best wishes to Mr. Briere on his recovery.

A.Wilson said that by an overwhelming majority, the Town Meeting approved an article to spend \$9,800 to hire professional services in dealing with the casino issue. He requested that the Board be prepared to take the next step on how to best utilize the money by January 7, 2002. J. Malloy offered to get further information from Perkins Coie about what they would charge for their services. C. Blanchard suggested having a representative from Perkins Coie come to review the legal process with the Board and to formulate an overview. H. White suggested that a one-page fact sheet be provided to residents and the ad hoc committee. He also suggested that the Board meet with the board and committees of other communities and make a standardized presentation. C. Blanchard suggested earmarking up to \$4,000 for public relations, then have J. Malloy talk to the local firm about what they could do with that amount. It was the consensus of the Board that the amount should be up to \$4,000 for public relations.

New Business

C. Blanchard commented that the policy statement from the Conservation Commission is very good. It takes the best practices that are in the state standards and explains in detail how the Conservation Commission wishes to interpret and apply them. He suggested that the Board receive a copy of any information that Rick Johnson gives to the Conservation Commission.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of having SATA come in to meet with the Board of Selectmen. J. Malloy will invite them to meet with the Board in January or February.

C. Blanchard said that the Park Study Committee met on Thursday, December 13th to review the budget for the park. They will request \$30,000 from the Betterment Committee.

A.Wilson requested that the Board return their comments regarding the Town Administrator's performance evaluation to him by January 7th.

Ask the Selectmen

There were no calls.

MOTION: To adjourn, by D. Sosik

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

December 17, 2001

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date