

January 7, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 7, 2002**

Present:     Arnold Wilson, Chairman  
              George Dib  
              Charles Blanchard (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)  
              Doris Sosik  
              James Malloy, Town Administrator

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

**G.L. Food Services – Pledge of License**

Attorney Paul Sushchuk appeared before the Board to present a Pledge of License G.L. Food Services to CIT Small Business Lending Corp., Inc. J. Malloy informed the Board that their paperwork was in order. He noted that the Pledge of Stock did not require a vote of the Board of Selectmen.

**MOTION:   To approve the Pledge of License for G.L. Food Services to CIT Small Business Lending Corporation, Inc., by G. Dib.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:   D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Pole Hearing – Main Street (Route 20)**

Robert Strand of Verizon New England appeared before the Board. The petition was for a joint utility pole located on Route 20. R. Strand explained that Village Pizza needed more voltage, and Mass. Electric needed another pole to accomplish that.

J. Malloy read Greg Morse's comments to the Board (copy on file).

**MOTION:   To approve the pole location as per the application dated 12/6/01; the sidewalk should be cut or cored and repaired to the original condition using 3,000 psi concrete and that any damage to the granite curbing be repaired to original condition; a copy of the sketch should be provided indicating the correct pole number, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:   G. Dib**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Correspondence**

- Dec. 10 Paul O'Connor, President, Sturbridge Nursery School – Regarding the Annual Report for the Sturbridge Nursery School.
- Dec. 13 Thomas Waruzila, District Highway Director, Mass. Highway Dept. – Copy of a letter sent to Lawrence Adams, Town Planner, regarding several issues on Route 20.
- Dec. 17 Joseph Sandulli, Sandulli, Grace, Shapiro, Horwitz & Davidson – Copy of a letter sent to the Labor Relations Commission informing them that they represent the Mass. Coalition of Police, AFL-CIO of the police officers of the Town of Sturbridge, and the union consents to the petition filed by Jeff Lavallee to sever a unit of four sergeants.
- Dec. 17 Bill Toomey, The Nature Conservancy – Thanking the Board for giving him the opportunity to speak on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Dec. 18 Edward Goldstein, Regional Director, Charter Communications – Regarding a rate adjustment to be effective February 1, 2002.
- G. Dib noted that during the last three years, their rates have increased from \$27/month to \$44/month. D. Sosik said that senior citizens aged 65 and over and handicapped citizens are eligible for rate discounts.
- Dec. 19 Amy McWethy, PG&E National Energy Group – Copy of a letter sent to Nancy Ryder, Conservation Commission, informing her that her program was awarded a 2001 environmental education grant for \$5,000.
- Dec. 20 Michael Donoghue, Treasurer/Chairman, Worcester Regional Retirement System – Regarding 2003 appropriations.
- Dec. 20 John Hoffman, Chairman, Sturbridge Conservation Commission – Copy of a memo sent to Larry Adams, Town Planner regarding their review of the Park Place project.
- Dec. 26 Senator Stephen Brewer – Indicating that he has sent a letter of support for Sturbridge's Self-Help application to Jennifer Soper, EOEa.
- Dec. 28 Michael Young, President, Hamilton Rod & Gun Club – Indicating that they have given permission to Sideways Promotions and O'Connor Racing to hold the 2002 Ice Races on club property.

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Dec. 28 Chris Rodstrom, Land Protection Specialist, The Trustees of Reservations – Requesting the support of the Town of Sturbridge for the acquisition of the Robert Crowd archeological site on Leadmine Road.

J. Malloy said that they are asking for financial support in the amount of \$2,500. D. Sosik suggested asking the Open Space Committee for their opinion, and requesting that the Trustees of Reservations send a representative to meet with the Board.

### **Sewer Extension Applications**

G. Morse sent a memo dated January 4, 2002 regarding The Sanctuary and Highlands subdivision applications from Robert Moss (copy on file). He disapproved both of the applications based on the 12/14/01 memo to Larry Adams and the Planning Board (copy on file). Robert Moss will make a presentation on the sewer extension permit applications to the Board of Selectmen in the upcoming weeks.

C. Blanchard arrived at 7:00 p.m.

### **Zoning Petition**

Attorney Ed Neal submitted a petition (copy on file) regarding rezoning the land directly to the east of the intersection of Fiske Hill Road and Route 20 from Rural Residential to Commercial. The Town Clerk has certified 186 signatures, and the petition requests that the Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting, which requires 200 signatures. Town Counsel indicated that L. Murawski's statement is correct, that the Selectmen are not bound to add this question before an upcoming Special Town Meeting or at the Annual Town Meeting, but that the Selectmen could opt to include it on an upcoming warrant at their discretion. Town Counsel suggested that the Board take the matter under consideration.

A. Wilson said that the Board should take a formal action relative to the petition. C. Blanchard suggested putting it on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting at the Annual Town Meeting, when there would be more residents present.

**MOTION: Based on the petition received, that the Board place the petitioned article on the Annual Town Meeting in April, by C. Blanchard.**

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**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Resignation/Appointment**

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Thomas Dubrey as a part-time dispatcher, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Blanchard**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Marjorie Moniz to serve on the Council on Aging, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Matthew Roderick – IOD Claim**

**MOTION: To approve the IOD Claim for Matthew Roderick as per the Initial Injury Report dated 11/5/01, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Blanchard**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Miscellaneous**

Ann Gore requested that the \$1200 fee for her sewer connection be reduced to \$200 for the new house that she is building.

A.Wilson asked how the Board could distinguish between Ann Gore's lot and the next single lot developed by a builder. C. Blanchard said that if someone is building a development, the builder is connecting the house to the sewer as part of the cost of building, then selling the house at a fixed price.

**MOTION: To reduce the fee to \$200 because it was a single lot and not part of a subdivision plan, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**  
**Vote: Two in favor; two opposed. The motion was defeated.**

2002 Lake/Pond Grant – J. Malloy submitted to the Board a copy of the grant application from the Walker Pond Association. Mr. Malloy signed off on the grant because the deadline was last week, and with the town as co-signer, they do not have to pay the application fee. The town is not

obligated to participate financially unless the grant is accepted and there is an appropriation. They would be seeking a higher contribution from the Town than on previous projects under this program. C. Blanchard asked if there was any money available in the Walker Pond fund. J. Malloy said that he would look into it.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 17, 2001 as amended, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Three in favor; G. Dib abstained.**

C. Blanchard mentioned the letter from Paul O'Connor, President of the Sturbridge Nursery School. It was the consensus of the Board that playground equipment is not a town expenditure. J. Malloy will inform Mr. O'Connor.

### **Saturday Budget Meeting**

J. Malloy informed the Board that the Saturday Budget Meeting has been scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m.

### **Goal Setting Session**

J. Malloy submitted an additional update to the Board regarding the goal setting session including a list of proposals (copy on file).

**MOTION: To change the Board's meeting schedule from every week to the first and third Mondays of the month; every second Monday would be a work session; after 90 days the Board will review the schedule, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

J. Malloy will set up an In/Out box for current correspondence.

**MOTION: To eliminate the presentation of the monthly reports to the Board by department heads, subject to a three-month trial period, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: Three in favor; C. Blanchard opposed.**

The status of quarterly reports will remain the same.

It was the consensus of the Board that if there is a need for a formal meeting on the fourth or fifth Monday of the month, any member of the Board or the Town Administrator may request one. The Board may request the department heads attend any formal or informal meeting.

**MOTION: That the informal meetings be televised, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

The Board of Selectmen will become more involved in and continue to develop and organization to oppose the proposed casino.

Regarding the growth issue, the Planning Board will be invited to meet with the Board of Selectmen within the next 45 days to discuss the ongoing pressures that the Town faces and to develop a more coordinated effort between the two boards to address growth concerns. A.Wilson said that he will attend the next meeting of the Planning Board, and will raise the issue of setting up a joint sub-committee of the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to review growth and undertake bylaw development. J. Malloy suggested that A.Wilson point out to the Planning Board that zoning bylaw articles for the Annual Town Meeting have to be done earlier and more information must be provided to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

The Board of Selectmen will establish better communications/relationships with other elected and appointed Boards. D. Sosik expressed her interest in serving as liaison to the Community Preservation Committee and Open Space Committee. C. Blanchard said that there should be a policy regarding the responsibilities of liaisons.

The Board will continue its efforts towards open space acquisitions. The Board approved a formalized policy in 2001. Once the acquisition of the Ballard parcel is completed, the process should be analyzed and any necessary changes made.

The Board will improve communications with Town residences via the Web, Cable TV, newspapers, mailings, etc. A new link should be added to the Selectmen's web page by the end of February. The Selectmen should download First Class software and be trained on using and posting information to the web page. C. Blanchard suggested that the quarterly newsletter be issued by the Town Administrator instead of the Board.

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J. Malloy informed the Board that the FY03 budget package would be ready by the end of the week.

The Board will continue to develop solid relationships with surrounding communities. Another legislative breakfast will be scheduled during the legislative session of 2002. Meetings will be scheduled by the Board to visit other communities to communicate concerns regarding the potential for a gaming casino. Town administration will review the potential for combining services with other communities to provide a higher level of shared services to residents, such as Veterans' Agent, Dog Officer, etc. and file a report with the Selectmen.

### **Old Business**

G. Dib announced that the Building Re-Use Committee has been invited to the Lions Club on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

G. Dib noted that over the past few months the home page on the Town website has remained the same. The opening statement from the Town Administrator was posted in November 2001. He suggested that the home page be changed to attract more attention. J. Malloy said that he has asked Jim Douglas to assist in changing the home page posting. It should be a goal for each department head to keep the web page updated. The Police Dept., Fire Dept. and DPW will be included. Mr. Malloy spoke with Randy Perry of Virtual Town Hall regarding the addition of new links for Requests For Proposals and forms and applications.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Burgess gate. A. Wilson said that the gate is up, and it is temporarily closed on the south side. D. Sosik said that some of the parents did not know about the closing, and there was some traffic congestion on the first day, but the situation has since improved.

C. Blanchard asked whether there was any feedback from Mark Lev regarding the window sign issue. J. Malloy said that M. Lev is reviewing the situation.

A. Wilson announced that there will be a formal hearing in Washington DC on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the request of the Nipmuc Nation, and asked the Board to consider identifying J. Malloy and himself as spokesmen to attend the meeting.

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**MOTION: To send a delegate to the meeting in Washington, subject to a reserve fund transfer, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: Two in favor; two opposed. The motion was defeated.**

A.Wilson asked for the Board's thoughts regarding public relations on the casino issue. J. Malloy said that he is trying to get some prices from a few agencies. Larry Morrison is not interested in providing services at this time. D. Sosik said that she thought the budget was insufficient, since \$4,000 would not go very far.

A.Wilson announced that the ad hoc Casino Group will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

C. Blanchard said that J. Malloy had prepared a good casino fact sheet, and noted that it is available on the town's web site. He suggested finding a way to follow up. D. Sosik suggested that the ad hoc Casino Group get involved in developing a presentation.

### **New Business**

G. Dib asked whether the Board wanted to review the sewer connection policy. J. Malloy said that he would get the original minutes for the Board's next meeting. C. Blanchard suggested finding out how many people on Farquhar Road, Blueberry Lane and Stoneybrook Drive have taken out sewer connection permits.

C. Blanchard said that he and D. Sosik attended the School Committee meeting, and the Board should expect to receive a letter from them requesting that the Board consider giving them \$72,000 from Chapter 70 funds because they have a shortfall of \$78,000. There is an allowance in the law that if the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee agree, the money could be transferred to the School Committee.

C. Blanchard asked about the schedule for the Big Alum sewer project. J. Malloy will contact Tighe & Bond for their update.

### **Ask the Selectmen**

There were no calls.

**MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to**



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**collective 23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, not to reconvene in open session, by C. Blanchard.**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date