

January 22, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2002**

Present: George Dib  
Hal White  
Charles Blanchard  
Doris Sosik  
James Malloy, Town Administrator

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 7, 2002 as amended, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Three in favor; H. White abstained.**

**MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of December 3, 2001 as submitted, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Chris Rodstrom, Trustees of Reservations**

Chris Rodstrom appeared before the Board to request financial support from the Town of Sturbridge in the amount of \$2,500 toward acquisition of the Crowd archaeological site. They have raised \$27,500 of the \$30,000 purchase price.

J. Malloy informed the Board that the Open Space Committee indicated that they would support it, and recommended that the Board approve the use of \$2,500 from the Lucent Technologies gift account.

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen expend \$2,500 from the Lucent Technologies gift account for land acquisition to help the Trustees of Reservations acquire the Crowd site, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: H. White**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board the final NPDES Permit for the wastewater treatment plant, along with the letter he had sent to the EPA.

**Resignations**

**MOTION: To accept the letter of resignation from Judy Pote from the Open Space Committee, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To accept the letter of resignation from Mary Ann St. Clair from the Council on Aging, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Annual Town Meeting**

J. Malloy informed the Board that the department heads have a deadline of February 2, 2002 to submit warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Malloy and Larry Adams developed general bylaw articles regarding temporary uses and scenic roads. L. Adams is finalizing several growth-related bylaws which will be submitted to the Planning Board on January 29<sup>th</sup> for consideration, with public hearings to follow.

The Scenic Roads bylaw would seek to amend Chapter 3 of the General Bylaws to add a bylaw that would establish a process to protect scenic roadways, specifically stone walls and public shade trees.

The bylaw proposal for Temporary Use Definition and Permitting would address the concerns regarding the use at Hebert's Candies and would provide a definition and authority to allow temporary uses such as fairs.

**Kent Pecoy Request**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a request from Kent Pecoy to connect the new development off Paradise Lane (Old Towne Way) to the Big Alum sewer project. Mr. Malloy gave the Board a copy of Greg Morse's review. Mr. Malloy discussed the matter with Tighe and Bond, who informed him that the development could be added to the Big Alum sewer project, but would add to the overall cost. Based upon G. Morse's comments, the

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additional costs and the opposition from other residents on Paradise Lane that would be included in this project (who have already expressed that they are not interested), and that the basis of the project was to protect Big Alum Pond and not to add to the profit of a new development, Mr. Malloy recommended that the Board deny the request from Mr. Pecoy.

**MOTION: To deny the request from Kent Pecoy to connect the new development off Paradise Lane to the Big Alum sewer project, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **FY03 Budget**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board his responses to their questions from the 1/14/02 work session (copy on file).

### **Fundraiser Fair at WalMart**

The Town has been approached by the Shriners to hold a fundraiser fair in the parking lot of WalMart in May. It would be considered a temporary use on the property. J. Malloy said that if the Board would allow such a use, the Building Inspector would agree with that. His concern is based on whether the Board would be concerned about it.

C. Blanchard suggested that Mr. Malloy obtain more information about the proposed fundraiser, such as exactly what they propose to do, how many days it will last, hours of operation, traffic control, etc. D. Sosik suggested that Mr. Malloy make it clear to them that this would be a one time event. The Board will take it up again at the next meeting.

### **Robert Phillips, Town of Brookfield -- Change in School Funding**

Robert Phillips, Chairman of the Brookfield Finance Committee, appeared before the Board to propose an amendment to the Tantasqua Regional School Agreement. He said that in the years since the reform was passed in 1993, some portion of state aid has been earmarked for the towns as equity aid. This equity aid has been rolled into the state aid, and is no longer identified. The state does not care how the discretionary funds are spent. He submitted to the Board FY02 preliminary figures and graphs (copy on file), pointed out the anomalies in the present system and stressed the importance of taking action to correct it. His proposal would

cost the town of Sturbridge \$390,000, and he asked for the Board's endorsement for the proposed change.

R. Phillips suggested that the Selectmen of the towns of Sturbridge, Brookfield, Holland, Brimfield and Wales meet to review the facts and formulate a proposal.

C. Blanchard said that looking at this as a region, the current method is a fair method. D. Sosik complimented R. Phillips for making a clear, concise presentation. G. Dib said that the Board needs time to review the information. H. White said that the Tantasqua School Committee would like to maintain the status quo. R. Phillips noted that the Tantasqua School Committee has not invited him to make a presentation to them, and the proposed amendment does not require the approval of the School Committee.

Kathy Neal asked about the history of state aid to each of the member towns and their contributions.

### **Admiral T.J. O'Brien's – Change of Manager on Liquor License**

Attorney Don Keavaney, Brian O'Brien and Timothy O'Brien appeared before the Board to present a Change of Manager application for their liquor license. Timothy O'Brien will be the new manager.

J. Malloy requested that they submit an updated Vote of the Corporate Board within the next 60 days. They agreed to do that.

**MOTION: To approve the Change of Manager from Brian O'Brien to Timothy O'Brien for Admiral T.J. O'Brien's, and request an updated Vote of the Corporate Board, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Sewer Extension Applications for The Sanctuary and The Highlands**

James Bernardino and James Tetreault, engineers with Thompson-Liston Associates, Inc. appeared before the Board to present sewer extension applications for The Sanctuary and The Highlands.

G. Dib said that the Board needs information and additional input from the DPW Director based on the additional findings. J. Bernardino said that

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they would submit a report by the end of the week for review and consideration.

C. Blanchard said that regarding The Sanctuary, it would have a big impact on the number of houses as to whether it gets water and sewer, based on the system's capability to accept it. He asked that they provide an alternative, with and without water and sewer.

### **Old Business**

C. Blanchard had a few questions regarding the department heads' reports. On Chief Button's report, he asked if there were any areas of concern for Sturbridge regarding terrorism; how many people had attended the Crimes Against Businesses seminar; and he asked for an explanation of the Municipal Teachers Program. On Greg Morse's report, he asked about the force main chamber pump for Jay O'Reilly. J. Malloy explained that it was in relation to the design work for modifying the pump station.

C. Blanchard noted that several weeks ago there had been concerns about failed grinder pumps, and asked whether any response had come from E-1.

C. Blanchard asked about State Forester Rick Johnson's response on the Conservation Commission's new recommendations for dealing with logging issues.

C. Blanchard asked whether there was any money available in the Walker Pond Fund. J. Malloy replied that there was no money in that Fund.

D. Sosik said that regarding the gate at Burgess, there are a number of people who are disregarding the gate and going around it, so it may be necessary to install a fence from the gate over to the building. J. Malloy said that he would go to Burgess with Greg Morse to inspect the situation, then contact Rosemary Joseph, John Riley and Chief Button. D. Sosik noted that the "Not a Through Way" sign had been pushed in.

G. Dib said that he and J. Malloy met last week and decided that the best course of action would be to send a letter to the Lions Club informing them of the purpose of the Building Re-use Committee and to find out what they intend to do with the building.

G. Dib said that the Casino ad hoc group met last week, and their next meeting will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center, second floor at 7:00

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p.m. He will talk to Bob Chartier about having the meeting posted at the Information Center.

G. Dib announced that the School Regionalization Committee will meet on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Brimfield.

### **New Business**

C. Blanchard noted that there was an excellent article regarding the casino in the Hartford Courant, and asked whether it could be posted on the Town's Website. J. Malloy said that a link could be added to the Website for articles about the casino. He added that it might be easier to download the article, save it as a pdf file, then post it.

### **Ask the Selectmen**

H. White said that Joyce Allard called to give the Board the name and address of the King Lion at the Lions Club.

H. White took a call from Marge Cooney, who said that the Open Space Committee designated James Egan to replace Judy Pote on the Community Preservation Committee.

C. Blanchard noted that in correspondence there was a confidential letter from Mirick O'Connell regarding the issue at 209 Shepard Road, and he asked how such confidential letters should be distributed when a member of the Board is one of the parties involved. J. Malloy said that H. White would be excluded from confidential correspondence from Counsel regarding the 209 Shepard Road matter. H. White asked for confirmation of that determination in writing.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

