

March 4, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2002**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Charles Blanchard
 Doris Sosik
 Hal White
 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 accept the minutes of February 19, 2002 as corrected,
 by C. Blanchard.
 2nd: D. Sosik
 Vote: All in favor.

Emergency Management Plan Update

Josef Rokus, Emergency Management Director, Police Chief Thomas Button and Fire Chief Leonard Senecal appeared before the Board. J. Rokus presented an update on the Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Sturbridge (copy on file) including an overview, risk analysis for the Town, objectives, work accomplished since November 2001, status of the current plan, key concerns, Burgess emergency power, alternate emergency operations center, communications systems, training, emergency equipment, involvement of Town officials and summary. High risk situations include blizzards, hurricanes and other severe storms; and hazardous materials spillage on the highway. Key concerns include the fact that Burgess Elementary School does not have an emergency power system; there is no Alternate Emergency Operations Center; and communications systems need improvement; training needs improvement; and minimal emergency equipment and supplies are currently on hand. Also, key Town officials such as DPW and the Board of Health, have not been involved in the plan and do not have copies of it.

Chief Button said that to establish an alternate operations center, all of the police and fire phone circuits must be reconfigured to the secondary center, as well as radio equipment, bay stations and transmitters. He noted that if the 911 line rings more than six times, the call will be sent to

the Southbridge Police/Fire Depts. Chief Senecal said that the alternate operations center must be at a secure location for the Fire Dept. and civil defense, with sufficient parking area to accommodate fire trucks, equipment and emergency vehicles. J. Rokus said that possible sites include Burgess, the conference center or the education building at Old Sturbridge Village.

Micknuck's Marketplace – New Liquor License

Larry Gaine of Big Bunny Market Inc., d/b/a Micknuck's Fresh Marketplace appeared before the Board to request a new package store, wine & malt liquor license. J. Malloy noted that all of their paperwork was in order.

MOTION: To grant the new wine and malt license to Big Bunny Market Inc., d/b/a Micknuck's Fresh Marketplace, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To close the public hearing, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

H. White arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Emergency Management Plan Update (continued)

Chief Senecal said that the Fire Department does not have programmable radios, so they cannot adjust to the new system. He presented a quote for a new programmable system to the Capital Planning Committee, and they suggested waiting until the study has been done before proceeding. Chief Button said that a repeater system would eliminate dead spots, and resolve the major portion of the communications issue in the Town.

D. Sosik suggested that blankets, cots and water be stored at Burgess. H. White noted that the Red Cross has disaster response teams with supplies available. J. Malloy added that Tantasqua Jr. High School has a backup generator. A. Wilson said that the President indicated that there will be money available at the local level for local Police and Fire Departments as first responders for terrorist and other emergencies. J. Rokus said that the federal government is setting up training programs related to terrorism for police, fire and Emergency Planning Directors.

It was the consensus of the Board to focus on finding a place to serve as an alternate command center with adequate communications. J. Rokus will return with an update in a few months.

EMT Appointments

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Nicholas Dadalt and Matthew Kelly as Call EMTs in the Sturbridge Fire Dept. effective March 5, 2002 at a starting rate of \$11.51 per hour, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Shriners' Carnival

MOTION: To approve the request from the Shriners to hold a Carnival on May 6 – 12 at the Center at Hobbs Brook, subject to the requirements stated in the Board of Health's 2/28/02 memo, that police details are provided as per the Chief of Police and that the Town of Sturbridge is named as an additional insured by Fanelli Amusements, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Underground Storage Tanks

MOTION: To approve the underground storage tank permits for OFS Fitel, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the permit for WalMart to store flammable/combustible liquids, gases, solids up to the limits in accordance with NFPA 30 pursuant to 537 CMR 14.03 (23), by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Water and Sewer Operations

MOTION: To accept the bid submitted by U.S. Filter and authorize the Selectmen to execute the contract between the Town

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**of Sturbridge and U.S. Filter Operating Services, Inc. as
per their bid dated February 15, 2002, by C. Blanchard.**
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Burgess Request

Jean Joel heard back from Peter Langelier at the Dept. of Revenue that the Board of Selectmen could approve the request from Burgess and it will not be added to the FY03 tax rate, but simply reduce the year-end free cash figure for FY02.

**MOTION: To approve the transfer of \$72,088 of Chapter 70 money
received by the Town of Sturbridge for education, to the
Burgess School budget, by C. Blanchard.**
2nd: H. White
Vote: Three in favor; D. Sosik abstained.

New Well Site

J. Malloy received the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Town and Brian Kaitbenski regarding the property on Shattuck Road. C. Blanchard noted that the dates contained in the agreement should be corrected, and Mr. Malloy should find out when the transfer will take place. The Board will take it up again at the next meeting.

Annual Town Meeting

**MOTION: To place Article #5 on the warrant and recommend
approval of the contract with U.S. Filter Operating
Services, Inc., by C. Blanchard.**
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

**MOTION: To support Article #6 funding for the Water Department at
a total appropriation of \$727,929, by C. Blanchard.**
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

**MOTION: To recommend approval of Article #7 for Sewer
Department operation at a total of \$1,667,564, by C.
Blanchard.**
2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Zoning Articles:

Article #8 – Rate of Development Bylaw

C. Blanchard said that there are significant concerns regarding whether or not the 48 permits is a reasonable number, how the youth lots work, and what kind of backlog to expect. He suggested that a study committee be chosen, and the public be given an opportunity to express their concerns. The study committee could report to Special Town Meeting no later than October 31st. H. White noted that the bylaw suggests that it will be reviewed on an annual basis. He said that if residents have concerns, they should consult the Planning Board and Town Planner; he did not think that an additional committee was necessary. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen support the Planning Board, and the voters could speak at the Town Meeting. A. Wilson agreed, and said that the proposal is fair and reasonable. D. Sosik noted that she has a conflict of interest with this bylaw and will abstain from the vote.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen support Article #8 as recommended by the Planning Board, by H. White.

2nd: A. Wilson

Vote: A. Wilson and H. White in favor; C. Blanchard opposed; D. Sosik abstained.

Article #9 – Non-Conforming Uses

J. Malloy said that this bylaw makes it clear that the ZBA will hear all appeals regarding changes in non-conforming use, and extends that type of finding to commercial establishments. A. Wilson felt that the proposed revision is too broad and needs more work. He said that there is no definition of an extension, or an alteration or reconstruction.

MOTION: To place Article #9 on the warrant and recommend support, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: C. Blanchard and D. Sosik approved; H. White and A. Wilson opposed.

MOTION: To place Article #9 on the warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: D. Sosik and C. Blanchard in favor; H. White opposed; A. Wilson abstained.

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Article #10 – Groundwater Protection District

MOTION: To place Article #10 on the warrant and recommend support, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #11 – Zoning Amendment – Petition to Rezone

MOTION: To recommend no action on Article #11, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article 15

J. Malloy said that the Town Moderator does not believe this is necessary, since he uses Town Meeting Time and Robert's Rules of Order.

MOTION: Not to place Article #15 on the warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #22 – Senior Center Revolving Fund

MOTION: To place Article #22 on the warrant and recommend support, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: Three in favor; A. Wilson opposed.

Article #24 – Betterment Committee

The Board was comfortable with the revised breakdown; J. Malloy will insert the numbers into the warrant.

Article #26 – Debt Authorization – Bond Counsel provided the following wording for the motion:

That the sum of \$420,000 be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Fire Truck and Street Sweeper to replace the 1963 Fire Truck and 1985 Street Sweeper, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$420,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.

MOTION: So moved, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Compensation for Town Administrator –

MOTION: To increase the Town Administrator's salary to \$80,000,
by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: Three in favor; H. White opposed

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Article #79 – FY02 School Audit

MOTION: To place Article #79 on the warrant and recommend
approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Article #80 – Interim Revaluation

MOTION: To place Article #80 on the warrant in the amount of
\$6,000, and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #81 – Sewer Electric

MOTION: To place Article #81 on the warrant and recommend
approval in the amount of \$60,000, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #82 – Water Systems Improvement Project Funding

MOTION: To place Article #82 on the warrant in the amount of \$675,
and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #83 – Phase II Sewer Project Funding

MOTION: To place Article #83 on the warrant in the amount of \$820.54, and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #84 – Acceptance of Cherrybrook Circle and Sprucedale Avenue as Public Ways

MOTION: To place Article #84 on the warrant and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #85 – Acceptance of Mildred Circle and Sidney Road as Public Ways

MOTION: To place Article #85 on the warrant and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #86 – Conservation Commission

MOTION: To place Article #86 on the warrant in the amount of \$952.50, and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Article #87 – Municipal Early Retirement Option

MOTION: To not place Article #87 on the warrant, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: Three in favor; D. Sosik opposed.

Article #88 – Trail Easement

MOTION: To place Article #88 on the warrant and recommend approval, by D. Sosik.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Article #89 – Waterway Improvement Account Appropriation

MOTION: To place Article #89 on the warrant, by D. Sosik.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To close the Special Town Meeting warrant, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Miscellaneous

MOTION: That the Board send a congratulatory letter to the Town's financial management team, by D. Sosik.
2nd: C. Blanchard.
Vote: All in favor.

In-House Custodian

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a spreadsheet with an estimated cost of bringing custodial services back in house after several years of having a private contractor. The proposal is for the Town Hall (10), Library (10) and Public Safety Complex (20). The Board will consider it for the March 18th meeting.

Dept. Head Meeting Minutes

J. Malloy submitted to the Board the department head meeting minutes. The Town Hall staff manually calculated and input the Community Preservation Act figures for 3,000+ properties for the spring tax bill.

MOTION: To send a letter of commendation to the financial staff for their extra efforts, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Quarterly Newsletter

J. Malloy submitted to the Board estimates on the cost of sending out a quarterly newsletter, which run between \$6,000 and \$6,500. C. Blanchard suggested including the newsletter with the tax bill, instead of sending it out as a separate mailing. J. Malloy will get back to the Board regarding postage cost.

Perkins-Coie

A.Wilson suggested that the Board go with J. Malloy's recommendation (copy on file).

MOTION: To accept the second course of action regarding the services of Perkins-Coie, by D. Sosik.

2nd: A.Wilson

Vote: Three in favor; C. Blanchard opposed.

Old Business

C. Blanchard asked whether the Hearthstone Inn had submitted a plan of their new licensed premises. J. Malloy said that the plan has been submitted.

D. Sosik noted that the Burgess gate was open for a long while on last Tuesday and this morning. J. Malloy said that he would talk to John Riley about it.

New Business

D. Sosik announced that the Community Preservation Committee will make a presentation to the Board on April 1st.

A.Wilson announced that the Burgess budget hearing will take place on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.; their proposed operating budget is \$6,747,419.

A.Wilson announced that the Tantasqua budget hearing will take place on March 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Library; their proposed budget is \$14,848,069.

Ask the Selectmen

H. White received a call from Tom Creeden regarding two of the zoning articles; he wasn't sure whether the Board had voted on them as they were originally submitted by the Planning Board, or as they were amended by the Planning Board.

MOTION: To adjourn, by C. Blanchard

2nd: D. Sosik

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Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date