

August 19, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2002**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Charles Blanchard
 George Dib
 Hal White
 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 August 5, 2002 as corrected,
 by C. Blanchard.
 2nd: D. Sosik
 Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 23, 2002 as corrected, by
 C. Blanchard.
 2nd: H. White
 Vote: All in favor.

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

G. Morse informed the Board that road resurfacing has been completed for the year. Rip rap has been set at the Millyard Park.

A. Wilson asked what would be done about weeds that are growing up between the sidewalks. G. Morse said that they have been controlling the weeds with the use of a weed whacker.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Farquhar Road pump station. G. Morse said that due to complaints from abutters, shrubbery will be planted around the pump station in the spring.

P. Donahue informed the Board that Chuck Everson transferred to another U.S. Filter facility, and was replaced by Michael Turgeon, who is certified in Water Treatment and Distribution, and possesses a Class B CDL license.

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P. Donahue said that the results of the drinking water tests came back in compliance with standards. He met with Tighe & Bond to discuss options regarding the wells.

He said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is performing well, with 99% efficiency. There had been a major circuit break, which resulted in having to shut the entire plant down for about five hours. A new alarm system has been installed.

The EPA has promulgated regulations through the Safe Drinking Water Act that will require the Town to conduct an assessment of the water infrastructure. J. Malloy met with G. Morse, Roy Wood and P. Donahue on August 13th to discuss having U.S. Filter conduct the assessment for the Town, which would be an additional charge above their contract price.

G. Morse commented that P. Donahue has done a good job in maintaining the budget.

Fire Chief Leonard Senecal – Monthly Report

Chief Senecal informed the Board that his new secretary, Lisa Keay, is working out very well. Darlene Curboy has been training Lisa, and he thanked Chief Button for allowing Darlene the time to help Lisa.

Last month Ron Woolhouse has been working 25 hours/week, three days/week in the new Inspector's Office. R. Woolhouse and Chief Senecal spent 2 ½ days doing inspections at the new high school, and have done the final inspection of the sprinkler system at the school. The members of the Fire Department have taken a tour of the new school, and will do another tour for the alarm system.

Police Chief Thomas Button – Monthly Report

Chief Button said that the Cops and Kids parties have been very successful, with 70 – 80 kids in attendance on Friday nights. The Police Dept. participated in the Worcester County DARE Camp, with twelve 4th and 5th graders from Burgess Elementary School. Eleven towns attended the camp. The Police Dept. received a \$2,000 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau to purchase car seats.

Sgt. Curboy and Officer Newsham attended COPS conferences in Washington DC and have been preparing a critical incident response plan

for the school. Sturbridge has been given a grant for a computer system which is connected to a state-wide and nation-wide system which is similar to the Amber Alert system for missing children. The system can also be programmed locally for access by state police, businesses and post offices.

A. Wilson said that the Board had received a letter from the Tri-Community Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Town pay for the police details for the July 5th Celebration. C. Blanchard said that the Board did not have any authorization to use Town funds to pay for the police details. G. Dib noted that the Chamber was prepared to make up the shortfall.

MOTION: To inform the Chamber of Commerce that the Town cannot absorb the cost of the police details, and the Chamber should pay the bill, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

C. Blanchard asked about the number of warnings vs. citations issued at Big Alum Lake. Chief Button said that they have developed a form to use, which they have discussed with the Big Alum Lake Association.

D. Sosik mentioned that the Board has been asked to have the skate park open while unsupervised. Chief Button said that other towns do that, and didn't see why it should not be open.

A. Wilson asked about the cost for a patrolman earning a four-year degree. Chief Button said that it would depend on the school, but for a bachelor's degree it would be \$18,000 for tuition and \$3,000 for books and fees, for a total of \$21,000; for a master's degree it would be \$21,000, and the officers would attend classes off duty. J. Malloy said that if the state should eliminate the Quinn Bill, it would be necessary to renegotiate the contract.

MOTION: To pay the Town's share of the Quinn Bill costs once the certification is received by the Commonwealth Higher Education Council that the Town is eligible for reimbursement, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

G. Dib suggested asking Town Counsel for their interpretation. H. White suggested getting input from our state senator. J. Malloy agreed to contact them. The motion and second were withdrawn.

Building Inspector's Monthly Report

J. Malloy presented the Building Inspector's monthly report (copy on file).

Well #1 – GZA Consulting Contract

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement between the Town of Sturbridge and GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. dated July 10, 2002, by D. Sosik.
2nd: G. Dib

C. Blanchard expressed concern about the basis of billings on page 2 of the agreement; he understood why the Town might have to pay a 50% premium on principal time for expert witness work to apply to depositions and court appearances, but questioned why the Town should pay for preparation and conference time for the appearances. J. Malloy asked the Board to hold voting on the agreement, and he will consult Town Counsel about it. The motion and second were withdrawn.

Big Alum Sewer Project Archeological Survey

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to execute a change order with the University of Massachusetts for the expanded archeological survey work required by the Massachusetts Historic Commission for the Big Alum Sewer Project for an amount not to exceed \$20,561, by D. Sosik.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Resignation

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Sean Comerford as a part-time Dispatcher, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard.
Vote: All in favor.

Chapter 90 Project Reimbursement Request

MOTION: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute the Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request for work on Church

St., Hillside Drive, Ridgeview, Breakneck Rd. and Clark Rd., by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Phase III Sewer Issues

MOTION: To change the assessment for Emil Roymans to one ERU, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To deny the request by Walter Regep of the Spaho Corporation for an abatement for the property at 128 Main Street, and to let the current assessment stand, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Regarding the request from Edward Watto to reduce his sewer connection fee to \$200, H. White noted that the Board had decided that the issue was between the buyer and seller, not the Board of Selectmen. He suggested making a spreadsheet tracking such requests, and indicating how the Board acted, so the Board could be consistent in their votes.

MOTION: To reduce the sewer connection fee to \$200 for Edward Watto, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: G. Dib

Vote: Three in favor; A. Wilson and H. White opposed.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold action on the request from Antonio Pettinella to reconsider his betterment assessment on the basis that his lot is not large enough to build a home on, so the sewer project will not benefit him. It was the consensus of the Board to hold action pending more information.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold action on the request from Lorraine Moreno to reconsider her betterment assessment on 64 Main Street, since the parcel is landlocked, unbuildable due to small size, and has no access to water and sewage. J. Malloy will ask Tighe & Bond to forward information about the street.

Septic Rates

MOTION: To increase the septic rates that Sturbridge charges at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to \$50 per 1,000 gallons, effective September 1, 2002, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Skatepark

Michael Hager appeared before the Board. J. Malloy informed the Board that according to MIIA, some towns staff their skateparks and some do not. M. Hager did research via the Web, and contacted various towns to find out which ones were supervised and which were not. He recommended that the skatepark be open on weekdays through the last week in October from 10:00 a.m. to dark. Volunteer supervisors would lock and unlock it. He suggested that Skatepark Committee members take it upon themselves to drive by the skatepark during the day to monitor it. He noted that police officers drive by the park on a regular basis.

MOTION: To allow the skatepark to be open unsupervised on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. until sunset (about 7:30 p.m.) through August 31st; weekends from 10:00 a.m. till dusk through October 31st, including Labor Day and Columbus Day; volunteers under the direction of the Skatepark Committee will be responsible for opening and closing the park, by G. Dib.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Four in favor; C. Blanchard opposed.

H. White suggested putting up a sign indicating that it is an unsupervised facility, to be used at your own risk. M. Hager noted that helmets are a requirement.

Other Issues

J. Malloy advertised the opening on the Community Preservation Committee, and Steve Halterman applied for it.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Steve Halterman to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire in 2003, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy will find out the status of the Fiskdale Village Tavern and report back to the Board.

Old Business

G. Dib asked about the status of the Building Use Committee. J. Malloy said that two of the people he was interested in appointing are on vacation, but he would be ready to make appointments soon.

A. Wilson asked about the status of the youth center. J. Malloy said that Chris Donais was serving on the committee, and the Building Use Committee would contact them after they meet.

C. Blanchard asked whether there was any more information about Sprint. J. Malloy received a call from their attorney, who asked if they could make the same presentation as they made to the Board. J. Malloy informed Sprint's attorney that they should prepare the application as per the DEP requirements and submit it to G. Morse.

C. Blanchard said that he had spoken with Larry Adams, Town Planner regarding the rate of development bylaw, and L. Adams informed him that the Planning Board has no interest in it or enthusiasm for it at the present time. C. Blanchard asked the Board members if they wanted to pursue it. A. Wilson noted that some of the objections to the bylaw have waned, and people have expressed to L. Adams that the Town really does need the rate of development bylaw. C. Blanchard suggested that J. Malloy meet with L. Adams to discuss what action the Board should take. H. White suggested asking the Planning Board to define their intent.

D. Sosik noticed that a boulder has been placed to keep cars from going around the gate at Burgess Elementary School.

New Business

C. Blanchard asked about the status of Hall Road, and commented that the surface of the road is very rough. J. Malloy said that he would talk to Greg Morse about it and will update the Board at the next meeting.

A. Wilson asked the Board whether they would like to meet off site on a Saturday or evening during a work session. C. Blanchard suggested using a work session for a review.

A. Wilson suggested getting a list of open space priorities from the Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee to be able to start reviewing them and making early decisions, and then make a presentation in April at Town Meeting. H. White suggested giving the two committees a deadline in the letter, to give the Board time to coordinate things. C. Blanchard suggested that the responsibilities of the Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee be clarified. He said that statements have been made and issues raised that indicate that people were working to undermine the activities of the CPC, which is unreasonable when reviewing the facts. There had been communication back in May with the CPC regarding what was underway with Shelter Island and the developer. The newspaper article regarding comments from the CPC was confrontational and attacked the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. C. Blanchard stressed the importance of the CPC, Open Space Committee and Board of Selectmen getting back on track and working together as a united town effort.

Ask the Selectmen

G. Dib received a call from Velma Franz, who had questions about the tuition costs for police officers for degrees covered by the Quinn Bill. A. Wilson said that for a bachelor's degree it would be \$18,000 plus \$3,000 for books; for a master's degree, \$9,000 plus \$900 for books. The officers would not be paid for their police positions during class time. It costs \$10,000 to train a police officer in the first year. Six police officers have left the Town of Sturbridge because of lack of the Quinn Bill.

J. Malloy informed the Board that he has four large draft sheets of the historical markers to go in the kiosks at the Fiskdale Mill Park. Feedback from the Board will be passed on to the Park Study Committee. C. Blanchard announced that the Committee will meet on August 29th. J. Malloy said that Bob Briere found a loom that dates back to the 1920s, and will look into the cost of moving it. It will need to be encased in a lexan case because it will be outside. C. Blanchard suggested getting the high school students involved in the project.

MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, not to reconvene in open session, by G. Dib.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

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Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date