

September 16, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 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.

Red Rooster Café (continuance of public hearing)

**MOTION: To continue the public hearing for the Red Rooster Café
 to October 7, 2002, by C. Blanchard.**
 2nd: H. White
 Vote: All in favor.

The Change of Manager hearing for Pizzeria Uno was also continued until October 7, 2002.

J. Malloy received an invitation to the dedication of the Crowd Archaeological Site on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. Copies will be made for the Board members.

Resignation

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Officer Timothy McGuigan,
 by D. Sosik.**
 2nd: H. White
 Vote: All in favor.

H. White asked whether a background check had been conducted; J. Malloy said that it had. H. White said that the Town of North Brookfield may have some liability in the situation.

Appointment

**MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of
 Richard Reed as a Laborer in the Public Works**

Department at a starting rate of \$12.40 per hour, effective immediately, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

J & W Application to MassHousing

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a draft letter to MassHousing regarding Stallion Hill Village (copy on file). A.Wilson suggested enclosing a copy of the zoning bylaw regarding rural residential. D. Sosik corrected the first bullet by suggesting the word “were” instead of “was.”

Town Counsel Billings/Mobil, et. al. Litigation

J. Malloy submitted to the Board billing records for July of FY02 and FY03. He also submitted emails between himself and Mark Reich of Kopelman & Paige regarding the use of the Water Fund Reserve to pay the legal expenses of the Water Department, which Town Counsel has opined that upon an appropriation from Town Meeting, the Water Fund Reserve could be used for paying the litigation costs. Mr. Malloy will continue to monitor expenses. The issue will be address at the next Special Town Meeting.

Cooperative Salt Bid

MOTION: To award the annual salt bid to Morton Salt for \$33.04 per ton, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Town Counsel Opinion re. Quinn Bill

J. Malloy submitted to the Board Town Counsel’s opinion (from Terry Dowdy and Mark LaBella) and his original memo to Terry Dowdy dated August 22nd, and follow-up email and attachments dated August 28th (copies on file). Town Counsel’s opinion is that the Town is responsible for paying 50% of the Quinn Bill costs, but not the amount that the Commonwealth will not pay. A.Wilson said that there could possibly be financial problems for the Town if the state should reduce its share.

MOTION: To agree to pay 50% of the Quinn Bill cost as per Town Counsel’s opinion and the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Sturbridge and Police Local #170, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: Three in favor; A. Wilson opposed; C. Blanchard abstained.

Building Study Committee

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointments of Greg Morse, DPW Director, Larry Adams, Town Planner, Nancy Ryder, Conservation Commission Clerk, Barbara Barry, Finance Director, Bob Williams, Finance Committee, George Dib, Selectman, and James Malloy, Town Administrator for the Building Study Committee, to study the possible renovation of the Center School Building, Town Hall and Old Fire Station on 8 Brookfield Road, as well as the use of all three buildings, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

A. Wilson suggested adding a member of the Historic Commission. J. Malloy said that they would speak to the Youth Center Committee, the Historic Commission and the Community Preservation Committee.

Village Automotive/New England Truck Stop – Confidential

It was the consensus of the Board that it was reasonable, and to proceed.

Old Business

G. Dib said that he had attended the candlelight ceremony on September 11th on the Town Common, and commented that it was well done and many people were in attendance.

H. White asked about the status of the road near the pump station. J. Malloy said that the road had been dug up on a water main break and was being prepared for paving, not as part of the pump station modifications project. The Town is waiting for DEP approval to make the necessary modifications.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the ambulances. J. Malloy said that the new ambulance is being repaired.

C. Blanchard asked whether Mark Lev had looked into the properties regarding abatement questions. J. Malloy said that he had sent letters to the residents saying that the Town's records indicate that they have two or three family residences and for them to contact Mark for an inspection.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of mosquito control. J. Malloy said that spraying will not be done in Sturbridge in November due to low mosquito counts. This information is on the Town Website.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Sturbridge Isle management issue. J. Malloy said that he had emailed the ABCC, who indicated that a business should file paperwork for a change of manager as soon as possible when they know there will be a turnover in personnel. Mr. Malloy will include additional information in his next update.

C. Blanchard said that the only sign at the skate park is a handwritten paper sign. He suggested that another sign be posted, making it clear that after Labor Day the skate park will be closed during the week, and open only on weekends.

C. Blanchard said that he had been contacted by janitors at Burgess Elementary School who said that they had not been notified about the early retirement option. J. Malloy had also received a call and notified them that the Board had decided not to adopt it.

D. Sosik noted that in the Building Inspector's monthly report, the Board did not receive the attachment to the letter that was sent to all of the businesses.

New Business

C. Blanchard announced that the dedication of the new monument in honor of William Blood, who was killed at Antietam, will be held on Sunday, Sept. 22nd. There will be period music and a Civil War encampment by re-enactors. The Sturbridge Historical Society will hold a dinner at the Orchard Restaurant on Saturday, Sept. 21st at 6:00 p.m., which will be \$30/person; \$15/person for members of the Historical Society. The public is welcome, and anyone who is interested in attending should contact C. Blanchard at 508-347-7285.

A. Wilson read the Sturbridge/Stourbridge Rotary Club Proclamation, proclaiming October 13, 2002 as Rotary Friendship Day.

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MOTION: To authorize A.Wilson to sign the proclamation, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

A.Wilson announced that the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Celebrating Agriculture fair on Saturday, Sept. 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

A.Wilson announced the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Conference on Oct. 23 – 24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Worcester

Ask the Selectmen

There were no calls.

MOTION: To adjourn, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date