

October 21, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 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 accept the minutes of October 7, 2002 as corrected, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Four in favor; H. White abstained.

Department Head Monthly Reports

Greg Morse read his report to the Board (copy on file). Sand and salt has been ordered for the winter season. Road maintenance included cleaning catch basins, drop inlets and waterways, and opening a blocked culvert on Bushnell Road caused by beaver activity.

Paul Donahue read his report to the Board (copy on file). All test results indicated compliance with contaminant standards. Some necessary adjustments have been made in the budget due to extra expenditures, such as the sump pump failure. Route 20 upgrades have been completed. The Water & Sewer Departments have been prepared for winter.

C. Blanchard asked whether the improvements they made to control the pump motors would be applicable to any future upgrade. P. Donahue said that the upgrade cost approximately \$7,000, and he confirmed that the upgrade could be used with future improvements to the pump station.

Phase III Change Order

J. Malloy informed the Board that Tighe & Bond had submitted a final change order for the Phase III sewer project. The Board had previously expressed concern about the phase converters; the issue has not yet been satisfactorily resolved, and should be resolved prior to approving the full change order.

C. Blanchard asked about item #8. J. Malloy explained that there was a homeowner who had a grinder pump installed, then later wanted it moved because he wanted to construct an addition to his house. C. Blanchard did not think that the Town should pay to relocate the grinder pump.

MOTION: To approve \$207,506 of change order #1 and to not approve the \$16,800 for the phase converters until the system is satisfactorily operating, put a hold on #8, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the change order as per the above, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Snow Plow Bids

MOTION: To approve the snow plow bids as per the memorandum from Greg Morse dated October 4, 2002, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Senior Municipal Service Program

MOTION: To approve the Senior Municipal Service Program application of Ed Douty to do seasonal maintenance work for the Public Works Department, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

GZA Contract

MOTION: To approve the contract between the Town of Sturbridge and GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc. dated October 9, 2002 and authorize the Town Administrator to execute said contract, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Tantasqua Request

Tantasqua requested that the Town fund some of the equipment for the television studio at the new high school, as some of the original equipment was cut from the budget. Mr. Malloy gave a list of the equipment to the Board (copy on file), along with the November 8, 1999 minutes of the Board of Selectmen which set aside 33% of the funds received from Charter Communications for the Education Channel. Mr. Malloy reviewed the expenses for the education channel and attached a spreadsheet which shows that after these expenses they would

be at 32.2% through FY03. The Cable Advisory Committee met at the Tantasqua studio to review the equipment needs, and voted to recommend to the Selectmen to purchase the equipment.

MOTION: To approve expending \$9,410.00 from the Cable Franchise Grant for the items indicated on the attachment from Tantasqua for the education channel, by G. Dib.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Burgess Budget/Labor Negotiations

J. Malloy submitted to the Board an email (copy on file) indicating that the School Committee will begin negotiating with their Teachers Association, and requesting that a Board member participate. G. Dib volunteered to serve.

MOTION: That G. Dib serve as the Board's representative on the Burgess Elementary School Negotiating Committee, by A. Wilson.
2nd: H. White
Vote: Four in favor; D. Sosik abstained.

Cedar Lake Drawdown

MOTION: To approve the drawdown as requested by the Cedar Lake Association in their October 9, 2002 letter, by D. Sosik.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Melinda's Menu

MOTION: To approve a live entertainment permit for weekdays under MGL Ch. 140, §181 per the live entertainment license application, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Sewer Rate Relief Fund

MOTION: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign and submit the certification for the Sewer Rate Relief Fund for FY03 as presented, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Xtra Mart Special Event

Xtra Mart requested a special event permit to hold a grand opening event from October 24th through November 3rd at their renovated location on Route 131.

MOTION: To approve the request for a temporary use for a special event from October 24th through November 3rd, subject to the Chief of Police's review of the need for extra duty officers, by D. Sosik.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor

Police Officer Appointment

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Ronald Miller as a full-time permanent police officer at a starting rate of \$17.17 per hour, by D. Sosik.
2nd: G. Dib
Vote: All in favor.

Conservation Restriction

MOTION: To authorize the Sturbridge Conservation Commission to accept the Conservation Restriction from Sturb Realty LLP as per the plan of land entitled "Conservation Easement Plan, located on Mashapaug Road, Sturbridge, MA owned by Sturbridge Realty LLP, 214 Worcester St., Grafton, MA Scale 1" = 80'" dated January 25, 2001 and authorizing the Board of Selectmen to sign said Conservation Restriction, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Senior Municipal Service Program

MOTION: To approve the Senior Municipal Service Program application of Doris Veach to continue working in the Town Clerk's office updating records, by G. Dib.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy explained that Helen Diglio is neither the property owner, nor listed as one of the property owners, at 13 Blueberry Lane. Her niece and niece's husband are the property owners of record; therefore, Ms. Diglio is not eligible for the program.

MOTION: To deny the Senior Municipal Service Program application of Helen Diglio to work at the Senior Center, by G. Dib.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Miscellaneous

The Traffic Safety Committee recommended that the Fiske Hill Road/Whittemore Road intersection be upgraded and recommended that the Planning Board require the developer on Whittemore Road (Swiacki) to make the intersection improvement. The Planning Board will take the subdivision under advisement. C. Blanchard suggested finding out about the cost involved and indication from the engineer about whether it will accomplish what the Board wants it to accomplish.

The Police Chief forwarded a memorandum discussing the uses of "Think" vehicles. The Town received four electric vehicles from Ford; the Police Dept. has determined that they could use two, and the Water Dept. has indicated that they could use one for water meter reading and for minor repair and replacement work that does not require a truck to respond. Chief Button is going to talk to the School Dept. regarding the 4th vehicle.

MOTION: To accept four vehicles subject to confirmation of the use of the fourth vehicle, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Free Cash was certified at \$1,325,596 for FY03. J. Malloy commented that the Town is in a good financial position.

Old Business

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the trees on Camp Road. J. Malloy said that there have been additional meetings between Tom Chamberland, Larry Adams, Greg Morse and the developer.

New Business

D. Sosik announced that the CMRPC will meet on November 14th at 7:00 p.m., topics to include economic development, new regulations and Chapter 40B. She will attend that meeting.

C. Blanchard said that the Burgess enrollment figure is 823 students.

C. Blanchard said that the Sturbridge Historical Society will meet on October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Joshua Hyde Library.

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C. Blanchard announced that Halloween activities will take place on October 31st, with trick or treating from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the Horribles Parade to start at 7:00 p.m.

H. White said that the Building Use Study Committee toured the Town Hall, Center School Building and Lions Club Building. Pete Culmo and J. Malloy will do a needs assessment analysis.

Ask the Selectmen

There were no calls.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date