

December 16, 2002

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:**   To approve the minutes of December 2, 2002 as amended,  
              by C. Blanchard.  
      **2<sup>nd</sup>:**   H. White  
      **Vote:** All in favor.

**Police Chief Thomas Button – Monthly Report**

Chief Button read his report to the Board (copy on file). On November 12<sup>th</sup> the Sturbridge Police Department was awarded the National Gold Award for Community Safety from AAA, with a luncheon ceremony at the Worcester Crown Plaza. The Tri-Community Exchange Club Public Safety Awards was held at Rom's Restaurant on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Sergeant Alan Curboy was the Sturbridge Police Department's nominee for significant contributions in Accreditation and Grant Acquisition and Management. Walmart awarded the Sturbridge Police Dept. \$600 in recognition of their community policing effort. MIIA gave the Police Dept. a check in the amount of \$750 for being accredited.

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

Greg Morse read his report to the Board (copy on file). He indicated that the funds for snow removal are running low, with \$2,500 remaining in the account.

**MOTION: To approve deficit spending in the Snow/Ice Removal Purchased Services Account #14232-52000 in the amount of \$15,000, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

G. Morse said that they would check the Delta starter at the sewer pump station. There was a problem with the phase converter, and it might be necessary to install a heat bar. C. Blanchard noted that there was a problem on Stoneybrook Drive, and asked whether Gary Tremblay had been consulted.

J. Malloy said that to follow up on the driveway issue, Breakneck Road became a public road four or five years ago and the bylaws only cover public ways. The reason why a few of the new houses do not have aprons is because the asphalt companies are closed for the winter.

C. Blanchard asked about the removal of a blockage on Seneca Lane. G. Morse said that it was the same location. They initiated flushing from a manhole on Caron Road. The first blockage was between Seneca and Caron. C. Blanchard asked whether they contacted E-1 through Mahoney Associates, since they could come up with suggestions at no cost to the Town.

Paul Donahue read his report to the Board (copy on file). There were no safety concerns or issues. He reviewed the list of corrective and preventive maintenance tasks. A. Wilson asked about the amount of grease coming into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. P. Donahue said that he will inspect the wet wells for grease accumulation. He noted that there are some restaurants in town that do not have grease traps. A. Wilson asked whether the grease traps were being cleaned properly and monitored, and suggested that the Board of Health investigate the matter. He asked what the Town could do about restaurants that do not have a grease trap. H. White said that there is a requirement that restaurants have grease traps, and the Board of Health should provide assistance.

C. Blanchard asked what happened to the gear on the belt press. P. Donahue said that there are three large gears, one of which is made of cast iron, which has some teeth missing.

Roy Wood wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Fire Chief Leonard Senecal – Monthly Report**

Chief Senecal read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that Matthew Roderick and David Peterkin completed a very intensive course and were certified as Firefighters I/II in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. It was the consensus of the Board to send congratulatory letters to them.

Chief Senecal said that he had spoken with a few other towns about their vehicles, and found out that 4-wheel drive pumper trucks work very well in heavier storms.

Chief Senecal reported that the Fire Safe Grant was given out this year, for the program for the schools. He should be informed within the next month or so whether the Sturbridge Fire Dept. received it. The Governor gave out a Public Safety Equipment Grant; Sturbridge is eligible for up to \$21,000.

#### **Hull Forest Products – Logging Permit for Holland Road Property**

Eric Johnson of Hull Forest Products appeared before the Board to present a cutting plan for the Szyszkiewicz property on Holland Road.

**MOTION: To approve the Forest Harvesting Permit for Hull Forest Products on Holland Road as per the application and comments provided by the DPW Director and Conservation Commission, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Sprint Spectrum – Cell Antennae on St. Anne's Water Tower**

Attorney Dan Finnegan and Michael Richards of Edwards and Kelcey Engineering appeared before the Board. D. Finnegan said that Caldwell Tanks informed him that it is out of the scope of what they do to provide information about the attachment mechanism and the impact on the tank. C. Blanchard noted that on Caldwell Tank's website, they indicate that they would provide information about their tanks. M. Richards said that they are aware that there is a potential for damage to the interior lining as a result of the stud wells. The tank will be drained, inspected and after the work is completed, inspected again, and any damage will be addressed. The outflow pipe is on the south side of the tank. They redesigned it, and the new design takes into account Greg Morse's comments. D. Finnegan

received a letter from Tim Gallagher listing municipalities who have similar tank installations.

A. Wilson asked G. Morse if he had reviewed the new plan, and whether he had any comments. G. Morse said that the new plans are an improvement over the first proposal, with a change to the routing of the coaxial cable. A. Wilson noted that on November 18<sup>th</sup> there was a recommendation from J. Malloy to discuss the use of the existing access drive to the tank site with St. Anne's Church. M. Richards said that of all of the tanks that Edwards and Kelcey have worked on, he didn't know of any complications. C. Blanchard asked that they provide a list of some of the oldest designs for the Board's review. He also suggested that they find out whether access approval from St. Anne's is necessary. The Board asked D. Finnegan to provide a list of references to J. Malloy.

**MOTION: To continue the hearing to the next meeting on January 6, 2003, to obtain more information, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Annual Audit**

**MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreements between R.E. Brown and Company dated July 15, 2002 and the Town, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Conservation Commission Request**

**MOTION: To accept the donation of 13.67 acres of land at 67 Clark Road and place it under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Matching Grant Fund Request**

**MOTION: To authorize the use of \$1,500 from the Town Administrator's Matching Grant Account for the local match for the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs Grant, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Resignation**

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Ronald Miller from the Police Dept., by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Stallion Hill Village LLC Application**

A.Wilson said that they should submit plans showing how the development would proceed without town water and sewer. C. Blanchard said that the Board should be more specific with recommendations to the ZBA. He noted that there is no option in the town bylaws for a multiple family dwelling built with a septic system. He suggested that the Board consider the application, then give recommendations to the ZBA. A.Wilson noted that the application indicates where they intend to tie into the existing water and sewer line. He asked for confirmation about the location of the sewer line. He asked J. Malloy for a calculation of flow from 64 condominiums and how it would affect the town's use capacity. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the matter again on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**77 Fairview Park Road**

John Hoffman, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, sent a memo dated December 10, 2002 and Mark Lev, Building Inspector, sent an email dated December 12, 2002 regarding the question of whether the parcel is buildable. The Conservation Commission indicated that it does appear to be buildable, but with great difficulty; they felt that it would be a great addition to town land. Mark Lev indicated that without a detailed site plan showing that the lot is unbuildable, he cannot make that determination based on the layout of the property and location of pipelines and wetlands.

**MOTION: To abate the betterment to declare the lot unbuildable and accept the lot for Conservation use, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Special Town Meeting**

Article #49 – Well #2 Repairs

**MOTION: To recommend approval of Article #49 as written, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Dib**

**Vote: All in favor.**

Article #50 – Sewer Pump Station

**MOTION: To recommend approval of Article #50 as written, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

Article #51 – Phase II Stormwater Regulations

C. Blanchard expressed concern that the Board has not been presented with any information about how much money is needed for the work that needs to be done before March 1, 2003.

**MOTION: That the Board support Article #51 for the original amount of \$30,000, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; C. Blanchard opposed.**

Article #52 – Conservation Commission Clerk

**MOTION: To recommend approval of Article #52 at \$4,704, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

Article #53 – Transfer to Stabilization

**MOTION: To fund Article #53 as written, by C. Blanchard**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

There were two Community Preservation Committee articles for which the Finance Committee had voted that the Town take no action.

Article #43 – Community Preservation Committee Purchase of Services

Article #44 – Community Preservation Committee Supplies

**MOTION: To offer a substitute motion of \$1,000 for each article, #43 and #44, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Old Business**

H. White expressed concern with J. Malloy's misquote in the Southbridge Evening News. Mr. Malloy stated that he was misquoted, and that the Board of Selectmen has not taken a position regarding expanded gambling in general throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also noted that he did not see a giant "Oedipus" rising out of the woods; it was an "edifice." A. Wilson felt that the speakers on the Commission were heavily weighed toward expanding gambling. A. Wilson said that Rep. Mark Carron stated that Massachusetts was compatible for gaming. A. Wilson suggested that there be a statewide referendum to determine what the people of the state want. H. White agreed, and suggested contacting the newspaper to clarify the last paragraph of the article. He added that the community has had a series of meetings regarding negative aspects of gaming to the town. C. Blanchard also noticed that the committee seemed to be in favor of casinos, and said that local option should be part of the state law. D. Sosik felt that the Board should not make it their job to say that they agree or disagree that gaming is a good or bad thing. J. Malloy was asked to write a letter to Senator Brewer and Rep. Hillman.

C. Blanchard said that the Christmas Pageant on the Town Common on Friday was a good event.

C. Blanchard stepped down as a Selectman and addressed the Board as a private citizen. He took issue with Mike Loin's statement in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes that an impact report was submitted, and said that it wasn't very detailed or accurate. There was no environmental report submitted at the time.

D. Sosik asked about the used Apple computer to be donated to Burgess. J. Malloy said that it was available.

A. Wilson asked the Board members to submit their evaluation forms regarding the Town Administrator.

### **New Business**

D. Sosik said that the CMRPC will hold its third quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2003 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a Regional Forum from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She will attend.

D. Sosik said that she was approached by a former town employee who has moved to New Hampshire, who indicated that the insurance company

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refuses to let him see a physician outside of Massachusetts. J. Malloy said that he would look into it.

A.Wilson asked that the conditions on the Sturbridge Host's Live Entertainment License be clarified.

A.Wilson announced that the Special Town Meeting will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Tantasqua Senior High School.

**Ask the Selectmen**

There were no calls.

**MOTION: To adjourn by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date