

February 18, 2003

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2003**

Present:     Arnold Wilson, Chairman  
              Charles Blanchard  
              George Dib  
              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 approve the minutes of February 10, 2003 as submitted, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:   H. White**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION:   To approve the executive session minutes of February 10, 2003 as corrected, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:   H. White**

**Vote: All in favor.**

G. Dib arrived at 6:37 p.m.

**Robert Cassim – Class II Used Car Dealer License**

Robert Cassim appeared before the Board. He submitted a sketch of the property. J. Malloy said that a lot of the cars have been removed from the site. R. Cassim informed the Board that the other business that has been operating at the property is in the process of moving out. Mr. Malloy said that Town Counsel determined that a Class III license is not required; only a Class II license is required.

**MOTION:   To grant a Class II license to Robert Cassim for the purpose of allowing a non-conforming use at 29 Main Street, not to exceed 15 cars for sale or repair on the property at any time, and the license be issued conditionally that the current unlicensed business**

**operation be removed before the Class II license takes effect, by H. White.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Fire Chief Leonard Senecal – Monthly Report**

Chief Senecal read his report to the Board (copy on file). The Sturbridge Fire Department received a Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$5,200. The funds will allow the Fire Dept. to continue a vital program for the students at Burgess Elementary School.

A. Wilson asked for a synopsis of the fire alarm system situation at Burgess. Chief Senecal said that Lt. Ron Woolhouse inspects it once a week, and it has been working to some satisfaction. The motherboard has been changed twice, once after it had been hit by lightning. Chief Senecal did not have an estimate of what it would cost to upgrade the system. C. Blanchard asked whether there would be any flexibility built into the code as far as the Chief's decision as to what is required, based on his evaluation of the building. R. Woolhouse said that they have a system that has gone through so many renovations, it has finally reached failure. It must meet the current statutes. A. Wilson suggested finding out what is mandated, what flexibility exists. J. Malloy read correspondence received from Rosemary Joseph. The Board asked Mr. Malloy to provide background information on this issue.

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

Greg Morse read his report to the Board (copy on file). The Board commended the Highway Dept. for their excellent work in clearing the snow after the recent storm. G. Morse requested additional snow and ice funding.

**MOTION: To approve deficit spending as outlined in J. Malloy's memo dated February 18, 2003, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

Paul Donahue read his report to the Board (copy on file). There had been a lost time injury during the month of January, which is still under investigation. The event was due to a pre-existing condition and may or may not affect the lost time accident record.

Training topics included Slip, Trip and Fall Safety and Chemical Handling with discussion on Cold Stress Prevention.

A. Wilson asked who was responsible for clearing snow from hydrants. J. Malloy said that it is a team effort between DPW and the Fire Department. The assistance of the Fire Dept. will be needed when DPW is involved in snow plowing operations.

**Country Motor Lodge of Sturbridge, LLC d/b/a The Orchard**

The application was for a transfer of license due to a corporate change. Attorney Robert Skene of Buchman and O'Brien represented Country Motor Lodge of Sturbridge, LLC and The Publick House LLC. He informed the Board that there will be no changes in the method of operation.

**MOTION: To approve the transfer of license application as submitted by Country Motor Lodge of Sturbridge LLC, d/b/a The Orchard, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Publick House LLC d/b/a The Publick House**

The application was for a transfer of license due to a corporate change.

**MOTION: To approve the transfer of license application as submitted by Publick House LLC d/b/a The Publick House, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To close the public hearings, by G. Dib.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Pole Hearing – Mashapaug Road**

Bob Strand of Verizon appeared before the Board, along with Paula Vogel of Mass. Electric. Greg Morse, DPW Director, submitted his comments indicating that there were no major issues related to the placement of the pole, as long as it is installed as far back as possible away from the road's northerly edge.

**MOTION:** To approve the placement of a new pole on Mashapaug Road per the petition dated 1/8/03, and to place the pole as far back as possible from the pavement, by C.

**Blanchard.**

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Building Inspector's Monthly Report**

J. Malloy read the Building Inspector's report to the Board (copy on file). G. Dib asked about the estimated cost of a dwelling. Mr. Malloy explained that it is the cost to do the construction. C. Blanchard noted that George's Pizza has a sign advertising their specials, which is not typical of restaurant signs in Sturbridge, and asked whether it had been approved by the Design Review Committee. The Board asked J. Malloy to have Mark Lev start attending meetings again.

### **Traffic Safety Committee Recommendations**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a complaint from residents of Maple Street regarding parking around Town Hall, the Library and the Federated Church (copy on file). The Traffic Safety Committee reviewed this issue and provided recommendations in their response dated January 31, 2003 (copy on file) which included the following: that an attractive sign be placed at the entrance to the new parking lot saying "Additional Parking" with an arrow pointing to the entrance; sign both sides of Morse Street with "No Parking" signs and have the Police Dept. enforce the ban; instruct all departments and committees, the Federated Church and the Library staff that the new parking lot is to be used, rather than obstructing the street; erect "Emergency No Parking" signs on the southern side of the triangle, nearest the Church, until the construction is finished and the snow is gone; residents should be advised to call the Police Dept. when they notice problem parking.

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee, by G. Dib.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Hamilton Rod & Gun Club – Ice Races**

Peter Giammalvo of Sideways Productions submitted a letter requesting the Board's permission to extend their ice racing permit for two additional Sundays, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION: To grant permission to extend ice racing for two additional weeks, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**ProChef Services, Inc. d/b/a Perennial's Restaurant – New Liquor License**

Rhonda Aspinall appeared before the Board. Perennial's Restaurant will be located at 530 Main Street, which was the former location of Rovezzi's. All of the paperwork was in order. Kevin McConnell, owner of the Sturbridge Country Inn and the property where Perennial's Restaurant will be located, expressed his full support and said that the new restaurant will be a great addition to the town.

**MOTION: To grant an all alcoholic liquor license to ProChef Inc. d/b/a Perennial's Restaurant as requested, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Insurance**

Larry Joseph of Metrogard appeared before the Board. He had requested at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that the Board consider putting the Casualty/Property and Workman's Compensation insurances out to bid. J. Malloy informed the Board that Barbara Barry said that putting the Casualty/Property and Workman's Compensation out to bid would not affect the health insurance quote.

**MOTION: To put the Casualty/Property and Workman's Compensation insurances out to bid, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Town Meeting Warrant**

**Articles #5 and #6** – Water and Sewer Budgets will likely have a rate increase due to a major reduction in water use/billings. J. Malloy will have rate recommendations available for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectmen's meeting.

**Article #7** – Town Counsel is drafting this article to clarify the non-conforming use issue based on the workshop that Town Counsel held earlier this year. The final draft should be available soon.

**Article #8** – This article will be removed from the warrant. It was to re-zone property on Route 131 for a nursing home project, but the location for the nursing home has been changed to Hall Road, which does not need to be rezoned.

**Article #9** – This article pertains to the property next to Shaw's Plaza. A. Wilson said that he would like to see the plot plans.

**Articles #13 and #14** – Town Counsel is drafting the articles that will appear on the warrant.

**Articles #21 and #22** – The Betterment Committee will meet on February 25<sup>th</sup> to make its recommendations; the Capital Planning Committee recommendations will be completed on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Gordon Hyde – Presentation regarding Town Hall and Center School Building**

Gordon Hyde appeared before the Board. He submitted a breakdown of costs to renovate the existing Town Hall and the Center School building and a budget summary sheet (copy on file). The offices at Town Hall will be rearranged, and some offices will be moved to the Center School building, per proposed plans (copy on file). All changes will be done according to historic preservation standards. The exterior of Town Hall will be cleaned, the building will be brought up to current codes, and two of the columns will be replaced. The elevator will be replaced with one that complies with current building codes. The existing boiler will be saved, new air heaters will be installed, and air conditioning will be installed. The cost for mechanical includes HVAC and plumbing systems.

The Center School building will be stripped and everything redone. An elevator will be installed, and there will be a meeting room on the first floor. There will be a heating and dehumidifying system for storage areas. J. Malloy noted that the windows have already been replaced.

J. Malloy said that the majority of the people in Town Hall will be relocated temporarily while the building is being renovated. There will be costs associated with moving telephones, etc., and he will provide the Board with a price.

### **Miscellaneous**

Alcohol Licensee Training Follow-Up – J. Malloy submitted to the Board copies of letters that are sent to licensees informing them of the training requirement, including a copy of the Town bylaw, and a memo sent to the Finance Dept. staff instructing them not to release any liquor licenses unless the licensee has submitted a list of trained employees. C. Blanchard suggested that there be some sort of review to check that the lists are reasonably correct, to ensure that they are in compliance with the bylaw. Mr. Malloy will provide a plan in the near future.

### **Budget/Wages**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a spreadsheet with the remaining budget items that needed to be voted on by the Selectmen (copy on file). The following items were placed on hold: Town Administrator's Salary, Town Clerk, Police Chief, Burgess, Tantasqua, Tantasqua Transportation, Town Road Maintenance, COA Salaries/Wages and Insurance Blanket.

Town Administrator's Salary – The Board has not discussed it or made recommendations.

Town Clerk –

**MOTION:** To recommend the Town Clerk's salary at \$45,237, including the \$2,500 adjustment + 4%, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** Three in favor; A. Wilson opposed.

Police Chief –

**MOTION:** To approve the Police Chief's salary at \$96,338 including the Quinn Bill, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** Three in favor; A. Wilson opposed.

COA Salaries/Wages –

**MOTION:** To recommend \$23,708 for COA Salaries/Wages, by G. Dib.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** A. Wilson

**Vote: All in favor.**

Insurance Blanket –

**MOTION: To propose a lower number later, by H. White.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To approve the remaining line items with the exception of those still on hold, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Correspondence**

C. Blanchard suggested addressing the rate increase issue with Charter Communications. It was the consensus of the Board to invite them to come in to discuss the matter. J. Malloy will provide the Board with a spreadsheet on their increases over a number of years.

### **Old Business**

H. White noted that Rovezzi's Restaurant has been using a parking area on town-owned property. He said that he was not opposed to that, but there should be a written agreement and the town should collect a fee for their use of the property. A. Wilson asked about the liability issue. J. Malloy said that he would look into it.

### **New Business**

C. Blanchard noted that the Sturbridge Bistro needs a Live Entertainment License.

A. Wilson reminded everyone that there is a town election coming up. The last day to take out nomination papers is February 20<sup>th</sup>; they must be returned by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

A. Wilson announced that there will be a public hearing regarding the Tantasqua Regional School Budget on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Tantasqua Jr. High School Library.

A. Wilson announced that there will be a public hearing regarding the Burgess Budget on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Burgess Elementary School.



February 18, 2003

A.Wilson announced that there will be a public hearing with Mass. Highway Dept. on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, regarding the Haynes St. bridge.

A.Wilson announced that the Republican Town Committee caucus will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

A.Wilson stated that he is willing to accept reappointment to the Betterment Committee.

**Ask the Selectmen**

There were no calls.

**MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph 6: To consider the purchase, exchange, taking lease or value of real property, not to reconvene in open session, by G. Dib.**

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

**Roll call vote: All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

---

BOS Clerk

Date