

June 2, 2003

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2003**

Present:     Arnold Wilson, Chairman  
              Charles Blanchard  
              David Schmida  
              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 May 19, 2003 as submitted, by  
              C. Blanchard.

2<sup>nd</sup>:     D. Schmida

**Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:**   To approve the executive session minutes of May 19,  
              2003 as submitted, by C. Blanchard.

2<sup>nd</sup>:     D. Sosik

**Vote:** All in favor.

**Barbara Search and Gerry Suprenant – Presentation of Simulated  
Check for Volunteer Services**

Barbara Search, Council on Aging Director, and Gerry Suprenant presented the Board with a simulated check in the amount of \$111,531.33, which is the amount that volunteer services would have cost if 134 volunteers had been paid at a rate of \$15.39/hour.

**Scott Young and Chuck Eaton, CME Associates – Discussion re.  
widening of Arnold Road**

Scott Young and Chuck Eaton of CME Associates and Greg Morse, DPW Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed widening of Arnold Road. They submitted to the Board the existing map which had been submitted to the Planning Board by the applicant, with coloring to clarify it. They outlined the condition of Arnold Road, and the addition of a turning lane to alleviate the traffic situation. There could be some grading

done on the lawn at the Senior Center. There have been some accidents at the intersection. They concurred with the engineering report, that widening Arnold Road would be beneficial. They did not conduct an independent analysis.

A.Wilson received a letter from Sandra Gibson-Quigley, Chairperson of the Planning Board (copy on file) in which she clarified the Planning Board's position that they support the construction of a turning lane at the intersection as a necessary traffic mitigation measure.

A.Wilson received two petitions (copies on file) indicating opposition to the taking of land in front of the Senior Center to widen Arnold Road, and suggesting that a traffic light on Rt. 20 would be a better solution.

G. Morse stressed the difficult traffic situation at the intersection, and said that a traffic light would be helpful. He suggested shortening the sidewalk, which would not affect parking or the entryway at the Senior Center. He said that the plans for the widening of the road have been submitted to Mass. Highway Dept. on a preliminary basis for their review. Thomas Chamberland submitted his comments to the Board (copy on file), suggesting a signaled intersection with a crosswalk button instead of widening the road. If the Board decided to widen the road, then his suggestion was that it be widened no more than necessary, no sloping of grade, and that a one foot to 18 inch high retaining wall be installed.

D. Schmida expressed concern about the lack of information in terms of the traffic count, and the net effect of adding the turning lane. B. Search said that widening the road would not alleviate the problem, and noted that a traffic study has not been done.

**MOTION: To approve the widening of the intersection of Arnold Road and Route 20 as per the plans of Bob Moss, that it be subject to Greg Morse's approval, and consultation with Tom Chamberland, and that the developer be responsible for the cost of replacing and replanting existing trees, and for any additional engineering costs and costs association with Mass. Highway approval, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: D. Sosik and C. Blanchard in favor; A. Wilson, H. White and D. Schmida opposed.**

The motion was defeated.

**IOD Injury – Officer Daniel Menzone**

Officer Daniel Menzone suffered a dog bite injury while on duty, with no lost time due to the injury.

**MOTION:** To approve the IOD claim under MGL Ch. 41, §111F for Officer Menzone as described in the 5/29/03 memorandum from the Chief of Police, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

**Governor's Highway Safety Bureau Grant**

**MOTION:** To authorize the Chief of Police to apply for the Highway Safety Bureau Grant with matching funds in the amount of \$2,000 from the Town Administrator's Matching Grant Account, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

**Executive Session Minutes**

**MOTION:** To release the following executive session minutes: Oct. 15, 2001; Oct. 22, 2001; Oct. 29, 2001; Nov. 5, 2001; Dec. 10, 2001; Jan. 22, 2002; Feb. 4, 2002; March 18, 2002; April 1, 2002; May 6, 2002; June 17, 2002; Jan. 23, 2003, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** Four in favor; D. Schmida abstained.

**Cemetery Memo**

Greg Morse submitted a memo dated 5/29/03 relating to the new section of North Cemetery, recommending one change in the "decorations" section, pointing out and recommending the policy regarding "flat" headstones for maintenance purposes.

Beverly Doolittle appeared before the Board to protest the flat headstone policy. She was unaware of that policy, and ordered an upright headstone for her son, who was buried on April 7, 2003.

It was the consensus of the Board to indicate to G. Morse that the Board is not in favor of the policy regarding flush markers in the new section of North Cemetery, and to allow Mrs. Doolittle to place an upright stone at her son's grave.

### **Miscellaneous**

It was the consensus of the Board to have Perennials Restaurant come in with an Alter Premises application to include alcohol service on their balcony.

### **Article #51**

**MOTION:** To authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute the contract between the Town and Tighe and Bond for \$13,400 for Phase II Stormwater Regulation compliance, by D. Sosik.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** C. Blanchard  
**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Road Materials/Equipment Rental Bids**

**MOTION:** To award the road material bids to the low bidders as identified in the June 2, 2003 memorandum from Greg Morse, DPW Director, by C. Blanchard.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** H. White  
**Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:** To award the equipment rental bids to the low bidders as identified in the June 2, 2003 memorandum from Greg Morse, DPW Director, by C. Blanchard.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** D. Sosik  
**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Part-Time Dispatcher Appointments**

**MOTION:** To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Cheryl Economos and Denise Fontaine as part-time dispatchers in the Sturbridge Police Department effective immediately at a starting rate of \$11.99 per hour, by H. White.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** D. Schmida  
**Vote:** All in favor.

**Auctioneer's Permit**

**MOTION:** To approve the Auctioneer Permit for David Straight for an auction at the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club on June 21, 2003, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

**Old Business**

H. White said that the proposed nursing home on Hall Road is of an unknown size and unknown water and sewer requirements. J. Malloy said that he would obtain more information.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of restricting the hours that contractors can operate on McGilpin Road to avoid conflicts with school bus traffic. J. Malloy said that he had sent a letter to the resident and a memo to Mark Lev, Building Inspector and the Chief of Police regarding the situation. M. Lev will speak to the contractor to see that it does not happen again, and the police will also review the situation.

C. Blanchard asked about the letter from Mark Lev to Rovezzi's Restaurant regarding compliance with state building codes. J. Malloy spoke to M. Lev, who indicated that there was a concern regarding emergency egress in the building, and one of the rest rooms was not handicapped accessible. Rovezzi's is now in compliance.

C. Blanchard asked about the policy regarding Ask the Selectmen. Judy Knowles had examined the Board's minutes going back to 1998, and found one mention of the issue on May 14, 2001 (copy on file).

**MOTION:** The Selectman who is given the caller's name will also share it with the rest of the Board, if so asked, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** D. Sosik and C. Blanchard in favor; A. Wilson, H. White and D. Schmida opposed.

The motion was defeated.

**New Business**

June 2, 2003

C. Blanchard read an editorial in the Telegram regarding the housing crunch and the Town's share of affordable housing, with a conclusion that he considered unfair. When Tyrone Jones withdrew his petition to the ZBA, he went to great extent to praise the ZBA for working closely with him on his project, which goes against the editorial. C. Blanchard suggested contacting the editorial writer at the Telegram to inform him that the policy on 40B has not been prohibitive and it was not the intent on the Town's part to derail 40B housing. The Board members agreed. H. White said that the Town had sought to acquire this land two years ago, before Mr. Jones came forward with a 40B proposal. H. White suggested sending a letter to the editor to correct the misinformation.

### **Ask the Selectmen**

D. Sosik received a call from Theophile Beaudry, former Superintendent of the Cemetery Commission, who indicated that there was no mention of any size requirement of headstones when he served as Superintendent. He also mentioned that he has been stuck in traffic on Arnold Road many times, and said that a traffic light would make the situation worse; he was in favor of widening Arnold Road.

**MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraphs #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property, not to reconvene in open session, by D. Schmida.**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date