

August 18, 2003

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 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 August 4, 2003 as amended, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of August 4, 2003 as submitted, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of July 21, 2003 as submitted, to remain confidential, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of July 7, 2003 as submitted, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Police Chief Thomas Button – Monthly Report

Chief Button read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that the Night Out party held at Heritage Green was very successful. Several of the Cops and Kids parties at Westville Park were canceled due to rain.

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The Sturbridge Police and Fire Departments were awarded \$55,600 from the Executive Office of Public Safety Homeland Security Grant, of which \$39,700 will be used for communication equipment, including portables and an AGILE dispatch radio system, which allows for interagency communications between numerous agencies (Fire/Police/EMS) within one unit; \$1,800 will be used for a Police Defibrillator unit; \$14,100 is for the Fire Dept. SCBA Rebreathing apparatus.

The Police Dept. has applied for a \$1,000 passenger safety grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau to purchase car seats and necessary supplies for installation. The PD has also applied for two U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Policing Services Grants; one is for volunteers in Community Policing and the other is for Community Policing.

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

Greg Morse read his report to the Board (copy on file). Seventy-five feet of wall has been built at the cemetery.

G. Morse met with surveyors, who will survey the wetland delineation flags at the new well site. J. Malloy said that the pumping test cannot be performed without MADEP approval, which will probably be in four to six weeks.

G. Morse said that the Big Alum sewer project is progressing very well, without any delays.

Paul Donahue read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that there has been a decrease in flow due to the dry weather. They replaced the leaking water main to the Recreation Center. The wastewater grinder unit was removed and rebuilt at the Rt. 20 pump station. They removed a blockage in pump #1 at the Stoneybrook Road pump station.

C. Blanchard noted that the Board had discussed improvements and corrections to the Farquhar Road and Stoneybrook Road pump stations. Gary Tremblay did not think that what was done solved the problems. P. Donahue said that they had sent spec sheets on the new units for review. J. Malloy said that he would arrange a meeting with Gary Tremblay, Greg Morse, Paul Donahue and Jay O'Reilly to review the matter.

Building Inspector's Monthly Report

J. Malloy reviewed Mark Lev's June and July reports with the Board (copies on file). He noted that the Building Inspector has a heavy work load, and that zoning enforcement is not being done at the level that it needs to be done.

Appointment

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Christopher Donais to the Grand Trunk Trail Committee, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Arnold Road

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a copy of the June 16, 2003 memo from the Town Engineer regarding the Arnold Road widening (copy on file). Greg Morse strongly recommended that the Board vote to go ahead with widening it, stating that the intersection needs improvement now. Plans should be submitted to Mass. Highway for their review and comments, so that it would be constructed to their standards. A. Wilson recommended that construction costs be put into escrow and remain there until there is full buildout. J. Malloy indicated that he does not believe that the Board has the authority to require that money be kept in escrow for a number of years. A. Wilson suggested the Board hold action on reconsideration until communicating the Board's thoughts to Mr. Moss, and to wait for full buildout to find out what the impact will be. C. Blanchard felt that there is enough information to show that the widening of the road will improve the situation, and there would be no damage to the Senior Center.

MOTION: That the Board reconsider the vote on the widening of Arnold Road, by D. Schmida.

2nd: C. Blanchard

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

MOTION: That the Board accept Mr. Moss's offer to widen Arnold Road, adding a right turn lane subject to approval from Mass. Highway before construction begins; the developer would be responsible for relocating the trees which are able to be relocated, and to work with the Tree Warden to prevent damage to the large maple, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

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

The motion carried.

Common Victualler License

MOTION: To approve the Common Victualler License for Healthy Hearts Inc., by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Tri-Community Exchange Request

The Tri-Community Exchange Club requested a one-day special event permit and one-day liquor license for a fund-raising event to be held on September 5th at the Southbridge Sheet Metal property.

MOTION: To grant the one-day liquor license permit with the contingency that that license not go into effect until recommendations and approval from Police Chief Button and Fire Chief Senecal are provided to the Town Administrator, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Route 131 Curb Cut

J. Malloy submitted to the Board CME's review of the curb cut for Spaho Corp.'s Sturbridge Farms.

Suburban Coalition

In a letter dated June 20, 2003 the Board had been invited to join the Suburban Coalition for a membership fee of \$200. It was the consensus of the Board not to join.

Early Retirement Incentive

J. Malloy indicated that the Board can determine which departments may participate; school employees who are not teachers may be included; and there is no accurate method to calculate the cost to the town. C. Blanchard suggested contacting the School Committee to let them know

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about it. J. Malloy said that he will meet with the Business Manager and interim Superintendent and get their feedback.

H. White noted that there may be some savings to the town with regard to clerical staff, and suggested taking an employee census of those age 55 and over.

Rotary Fundraiser

J. Malloy informed the Board that the Rotary fundraiser was going to be held at Sturbridge Candies, but since that property is up for sale, they would like permission to hold their yard sale in front of Town Hall. C. Blanchard suggested offering the old fire station property for the event. Mr. Malloy will discuss it with them.

Old Business

C. Blanchard asked if there was any new information concerning Old Town Way. J. Malloy said that there was not.

New Business

J. Malloy informed the Board that he will attend the ICMA Conference during the last week in September.

A. Wilson announced the third annual Celebrating Agriculture Fair on Sept. 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Woodstock Fairgrounds.

Ask the Selectmen

D. Sosik took a call from a resident who did not wish to be identified publicly, who expressed approval about the Board's vote on the widening of Arnold Road.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date