

September 15, 2003

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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 18, 2003 as amended,  
                  by C. Blanchard.  
          **2<sup>nd</sup>:**   D. Sosik  
          **Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:**   To approve the minutes of September 2, 2003 as  
                  amended, by D. Sosik.  
          **2<sup>nd</sup>:**   C. Blanchard  
          **Vote:** All in favor.

**Harbormaster Regulations**

J. Malloy informed the Board that there is a dock permit application to be heard on October 6, 2003 on Big Alum Lake by the Paradise Lane Beach Association.

C. Blanchard requested a copy of the minutes for the dock permit application for The Trail at Big Alum Lake Association.

**Conservation Restriction – The Sanctuary Subdivision**

**MOTION:**   To approve the Conservation Restriction between the  
                  Town of Sturbridge Conservation Commission and  
                  Sanctuary Homes LLC for 43.403 acres off Arnold Road  
                  (east side of Arnold Road) and authorize the Board of  
                  Selectmen to execute the agreement, by C. Blanchard.  
          **2<sup>nd</sup>:**   D. Schmida

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Sewer Rate Relief Fund**

**MOTION: To approve the application for the Sewer Rate Relief Fund and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute the FY04 application, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Senior Municipal Service Program**

**MOTION: To approve the request of Ellen Speed to work in the Town's Finance Department under the Senior Municipal Service Program for FY04, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To approve the request of Modestina Galati to work for the Town's Veterans Agent under the Senior Municipal Service Program for FY04, by D. Sosik.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Early Retirement Incentive**

J. Malloy informed the Board that he received 16 of 23 surveys that were sent to eligible employees (70% returned). He put together an annual estimated cost for the additional retirement assessment using the following basis:

- Using studies from the PERAC website for other towns and districts. Using the retirement information, the closest comparison was the Bridgewater-Raynham School District (based on average wages, age and years of service). From this information, Mr. Malloy developed an average cost per annual wage and applied this information to the Town of Sturbridge information.
- He included health insurance costs based on current utilization and annual cost. This does not take into account whether new employees will or will not have health insurance, since this is impossible to know.
- The savings on wages are based on the FY04 wage scale and collective bargaining agreements for the Town and School. With the

two exempt employees, it may be argued that the Town may not hire at the starting wage rate; this is the normal practice under the collective bargaining agreement that covers the remaining eight employees who indicated either a “yes” or “may be interested.” The difference is simply the current wage vs. the hiring wage rate.

In summary, offering the early retirement incentive to the Town’s employees could save between \$17,265 (those employees who indicated that they would definitely retire) and \$39,751 (the previous employees plus those who indicated that they might retire). The Board cannot take action until after October 1, 2003. They will take the matter up at the October 6, 2003 meeting.

### **The Copper Stallion Liquor License**

Don Garfield withdrew his liquor license application while he will continue to work with the Planning Board, Fire Chief and Building Inspector on changes that will need to take place in the building prior to opening a larger restaurant at the premises.

### **Admiral T.J. O’Brien’s Liquor License Application**

**MOTION: To open the public hearing for the expansion of Admiral T.J. O’Brien’s per their liquor license application, by H. White.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

Tim O’Brien appeared before the Board. Admiral T.J. O’Brien’s purchased their building from Old Sturbridge Village and is expanding their business to include their current space and some of the space on the first floor (their second floor). They will add 50 seats.

A.Wilson read a memo into the record from Larry Adams, Town Planner, to Mark Lev, Building Inspector indicating that the Planning Board had waived the Site Plan Review for Admiral T.J. O’Brien’s expansion, with a list of conditions (copy on file).

**MOTION: To grant the alteration of premises on the liquor license requested by Admiral T.J. O’Brien’s, by C. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To close the public hearing for Admiral T.J. O'Brien's, by  
H. White.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Old Business**

H. White commented that the early retirement estimates seemed like very optimistic figures.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the Burgess alarm system bids. J. Malloy said that they were postponed and re-bid because the prevailing wage rate forms had not been included.

C. Blanchard noted that people should not go through the gate at Burgess. A. Wilson said that there are tire tracks between the gate and the bench, which indicates that people are going around the gate. C. Blanchard said that the School Committee requested that the Traffic Safety Committee review the matter again, and the Board had decided that it makes no sense to have a through road going through a playground.

A. Wilson asked for an update on the tax calculations and a revised figure. J. Malloy said that Bev Poirier had provided it, and the \$18.08 figure that the Board of Assessors had informed the Board about has been revised to \$18.68. They included the Community Preservation Act revenues, but had not offset it. It was a \$360,000 issue. The \$75,000 figure in the hotel/motel tax came in lower this year than in past years. On the final estimate, they did not include the lower figures on the recap sheet. Instead of being underneath Proposition 2 ½ by \$460,000, the Town is underneath it by \$26,000.

### **New Business**

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the donation from Sturbridge Isle regarding the police cruiser. J. Malloy said that Sturbridge Isle is not in a very good financial condition right now, and there has been no recent discussion regarding it.

C. Blanchard suggested posting the hunting regulations on the cable channel.

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A.Wilson announced that the Celebrating Agriculture Fair will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, rain or shine.

A.Wilson reminded everyone about the Walking Weekend that is coming up in October.

A.Wilson read a proclamation regarding Benjamin Gardner's achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

**MOTION: To authorize A. Wilson to sign the proclamation for Benjamin Gardner, by H. White.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

A.Wilson informed the Board that he had read an article that Rosemary Joseph has asked for special legislation concerning representation on the Tantasqua Regional School Committee. The town of Brookfield was opposed. C. Blanchard suggested that J. Malloy contact Paul Gillian and ask the School Committee if that is something they would support.

A.Wilson said that some legislation has been filed changing the agreement. Mr. Malloy will contact Senator Brewer to find out what was requested; A.Wilson will contact Paul Gillian to clarify their position.

H. White asked whether it would be proper to promote the movies at Old Sturbridge Village by posting information on the cable channel. Judy Knowles informed the Board that she has been posting the movie information.

### **Ask the Selectmen**

H. White received four calls from individuals who identified themselves to him. The first call was concerning the Tantasqua Representation Legislation; the request was rescinded by the acting Superintendent of Schools. The second caller commented on the terrible condition of Sue Blair's memorial tree on the Common. The third caller asked whether the Board had discussed the early retirement issue. The fourth caller asked why the Board discussed the early retirement issue if it is not ready to vote on it. H. White informed the caller that the Board cannot vote on the issue until after October 1, 2003.

### **Correspondence**

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**MOTION:** To draft a proclamation for the Board to sign declaring October 2, 2003 as "296<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion Day" in Sturbridge, by C. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:** To allow the Chairman to sign the proclamation on behalf of the Board, by H. White.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:** To convene in 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 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