

November 17, 2003

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 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 November 3, 2003 as amended, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of October 6, 2003, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor

Firefighter Appointment

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Joseph Overly as a full-time firefighter in the Sturbridge Fire Department at his current rate, by D. Schmida.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Quarterly Reports

Bev Poirier read her report to the Board (copy on file). She said that the fiscal 2004 tax rate was set on September 12, 2003. The bills were processed, stuffed and mailed on Sept. 30, 2003. The tax rate is \$18.68 an increase of \$1.07 over fiscal 2003.

Doris Sosik arrived at 6:40 p.m.

B. Poirier said that she receives the Building Inspector's monthly reports, but she would like to set up a different procedure for receiving information about occupancy permits.

Larry Adams reviewed his report with the Board (copy on file). He said that Radius Nursing Home at Estates North has not secured a commitment from the state for their financial allocation for the nursing home facility. The Allen Homestead project is moving along well. Regarding Lauren Ledge, some of the homeowners are not happy about having trees in their front yards, and there is one cobbled driveway which creates an impediment for DPW. The Sanctuary is moving ahead on schedule; the lots have been released, and some design reviews need to be done. The Preserve continues to sell lots. The Whittemore Woods project is before the Conservation Commission to seek approval for the wetlands crossing, and there are concerns regarding access onto Whittemore Road. The Planning Board plans to visit these subdivisions to review their progress. Regarding elderly housing, Empty Nest Housing behind Autumn Ridge is at the negotiating design stage.

L. Adams said that the GIS Committee met last week, and they talked with potential service providers. Vendors will be interviewed, and a selection will be made for digitizing tax maps.

Barbara Search reviewed her report before the Board (copy on file). A vinyl tile floor was installed in the dining area, kitchen and director's office, and a new carpet was installed in the small office, accomplished with money from the Friends Community Spelling Challenge, raffles, trip fundraisers, gifts from the Brodeur estate, Fleet Bank, Federated Church Koininia, and Walter Saletnik. All four bathrooms have been painted and decorated with matching borders, resulting in a pleasant, home-like décor. Hometown Bank donated \$300 for the project.

The original Formula Grant of \$5,414 for Sturbridge was increased to level funding at \$7,005.

B. Search has been appointed to the Emergency Management Team and the Community Reading Project.

Appointments/Resignations

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Gary Tremblay as the Electrical Inspector, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard.

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Clyde Gagnon as the Electrical Inspector, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Clyde Gagnon as the Assistant Electrical Inspector, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Gary Tremblay as the Assistant Electrical Inspector, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Pole Hearing – Cedar Street

Bob Strand of Verizon and a representative from Mass. Electric appeared before the Board. J. Malloy received a letter from a resident asking that pole #35 in Cedar Street be moved an additional four feet south of the proposed location (copy on file). Mr. Malloy read G. Morse's input into the record (copy on file).

MOTION: To approve the new location of a pole 84 feet south of the existing pole #35 on Cedar Street, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Native American Hardwood – Forestry Permit for the Gingras Property

George King of Native American Hardwood appeared before the Board. Bernie Lorkiewicz, DPW Technical Assistant and the Conservation Commission reviewed the application and submitted their comments (copies on file).

MOTION: To approve the forestry permit for the Gingras property with Native American Hardwood subject to the conditions recommended in the 10/21/03 memo from Bernie

Lorkiewicz and the 10/3/03 memo from the Conservation Commission, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Personnel Policies

MOTION: To approve the revised Personnel Policies (copy on file) to be effective January 1, 2004, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

American Legion Liquor License

MOTION: To approve a discounted rate of \$750 for the American Legion liquor license, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Pole Hearing – Church Street

Bob Strand of Verizon and a representative from Mass. Electric appeared before the Board. B. Strand said that there is not yet a final agreement between the church and Sprint.

MOTION: To allow placement of pole T3S and the replacement of pole T3, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Special Town Meeting

Article #28 – Burgess Alarm

MOTION: To place and support Article #28 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #29 – Voting Equipment

MOTION: To place and support Article #29 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #30 – Prior Year’s Bills

MOTION: To place and support Article #30 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #31 – OFS Fitel TIF Agreement

MOTION: To place and support Article #31 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #32 – Sick/Vacation Costs associated with the ERI

MOTION: To place and support Article #32 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Three in favor; A. Wilson and H. White opposed

Article #33 – Verizon Easement

MOTION: To place and support Article #33 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #34 – Maintenance Overrun in the Water Dept.

MOTION: To place and support Article #34 on the STM warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To place and support an article rescinding the Town Meeting vote for \$800,000 for the Stallion Hill property, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor

A.Wilson suggested sending Tyrone Jones a certified letter with a copy to the Community Preservation Committee, and that the CPC should take a vote also.

MOTION: To close the Special Town Meeting warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Gerrish Forestland Management – Forestry Permit – Palmer Property

Scott Gerrish of Gerrish Forestland Management appeared before the Board.

MOTION: To approve the forestry permit for Gerrish Forestland Management for the Palmer property subject to the conditions established in the 11/3/03 memo from the Conservation Commission and the 11/17/03 memo from Bernie Lorkiewicz, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

A.Wilson suggested that the Board think about contacting Perkins-Coie regarding the Nipmuc issue.

New Business

D. Sosik received a call from a neighbor who expressed concern about a speeding issue at the dangerous intersection of Country Hill Road and Cedar Street. She asked about the process for installing a mirror at the site to help the situation. A.Wilson suggested asking the Traffic Safety Committee to review it. J. Malloy said that it would be a DPW matter, and that there could be a liability issue.

E. Osterman Inc. – Propane Storage Tanks

Ken Bailey of E. Osterman Inc. appeared before the Board. He noted that four 1,000 gallon propane tanks are proposed at Alsco Industries. The tanks will be located in the back corner of the property, and there will be crash protection for them.

MOTION: To approve the permit for four 1,000 gallon underground propane storage tanks at Alsco Industries, which were approved by the Fire Chief, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Ask the Selectmen

D. Schmida received a call from Kevin Smith, who asked the Board to discuss and describe why a TIF has been extended for OFS Fitel. J. Malloy said that OFS Fitel is a multi-national company that should be encouraged to stay in Sturbridge, since they bring jobs to the community, as well as property taxes. He felt that 1% would be a minimal investment by the Town. H. White added that OFS Fitel is the largest industrial employer in the Town of Sturbridge. A. Wilson noted that they make a significant investment in the community, and the Town is getting a benefit from taxes.

C. Blanchard received a call from Bill Muir, who expressed concern about whether or not the propane tanks were already part of the site plan. He said that they were put there before Site Plan review. Propane was part of the expansion.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date