

January 5, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2004**

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 December 15, 2003 as submitted, by D. Sosik.
 2nd: C. Blanchard
 Vote: All in favor.

A.Wilson requested that the Board hold action on the executive session minutes of December 15, 2003 until Judy Knowles researches the notes from that session to verify a specific statement. The Board agreed.

Uno Restaurants, LLC – Change of Manager on Liquor License

MOTION: To approve the Change of Manager application for Uno Restaurants, LLC d/b/a Pizzeria Uno, by H. White.
 2nd: D. Schmida
 Vote: All in favor.

Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative – Sewer Extension Request

Paul Hatch and Mary Berry appeared before the Board. P. Hatch said that DEP had notified them that their septic system was not in compliance with regulations. The park has been operating under Title 5. DEP has made a few inspections. They requested permission to tie into the treatment facility at either Haynes Street or Farquhar Road, for 35,000 gallons/day design flow, with an actual flow rate of 18,000 gallons/day. A.Wilson suggested that they meet with Greg Morse, DPW Director, and engineering to review the options.

8 Brookfield Road Lease

J. Malloy said that he had received a FAX from Christopher Rovezzi, withdrawing his bid. Mr. Rovezzi has come to an agreement with Terry Gordon about the use of the parking area at 8 Brookfield Road. It will be a sublease, which will require approval of the Board of Selectmen. Terry Gordon informed the Board that approximately 200 students age 2-18 will attend the dance studio; there will also be a class for adults. The Mass Motion Dance Project is geared toward serving the community. D. Sosik considered it to be an excellent use of the property.

Waterman Design – Elderly Housing Project

John Massaro of Waterman Design appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed housing project for the elderly on Wallace Road. The parcel is approximately 30 acres with 4 acres of upland, in a suburban residential zone. There will be 28 two-bedroom units in the project, with two parking spaces per unit. J. Malloy said that the Board of Selectmen should vote whether or not to approve the location and on the proposed project, before the Planning Board can consider a special permit application.

C. Blanchard said that he would be more inclined to support the project if the building was situated deeper on the land, with more of the land around it to shelter it from the surrounding area, instead of placing it along the road. A. Wilson said that he would reserve his opinion based on the number of units in the area. He noted that the project would be accessible at a short distance to all of the Town's services. C. Blanchard said that public input for this project would be necessary. J. Malloy suggested that the Board continue the matter until the next meeting, and he offered to send a notice to the residents of Wallace Road who are within 200 feet of the property. He noted that according to the Sewer Service Area bylaw, 200 gallons/day would be permitted per lot. H. White said that the Board should adopt a policy regarding expansion of the sewer system, and not act without a policy. It was the consensus of the Board to continue the matter to January 20, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

DPW Grievance

J. Malloy said that he had told Tim Oppenheimer that in reviewing position descriptions, he noticed that laborers are required to fill in at the recycling center. A. Wilson noted that there is a large piece of equipment at the recycling center, so a heavy equipment operator is needed.

Snow and Ice Deficit

MOTION: To approve deficit spending in the amount of \$25,000 for account number #14232-52000, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Trifone Design/Matte Request for Water Extension

MOTION: To approve the water extension for 139 Main Street with the condition that the applicant is required to meet design standards dictated by the DPW Director, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Auctioneer's Permit

MOTION: To approve the auctioneer's permit for Stuart Brody, d/b/a Showcase Auctioneers and Appraisers for 2/15/04 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Digitized Parcel Maps

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement between the Town of Sturbridge and Full Circle Technologies dated December 18, 2003 in the amount of \$21,250, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Resignation/Appointment

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Denise Fontaine as a full time dispatcher in the Sturbridge Police Department, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Derek Gaylord as a dispatcher in the Sturbridge Police

Department effective 1/20/04 at \$12.27 per hour, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Miscellaneous

J. Malloy submitted to the Board Greg Morse's response regarding the Millyard Marketplace email. The Board agreed that it is an engineering issue that G. Morse should be able to address.

Regarding bonding estimates for borrowing \$250,000 over 10 years and 20 years for design of sidewalks on Route 131, the Board agreed to continue to pursue the matter and put it on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The Board considered it to be an affordable amount of money for improvement to Route 131, and putting the engineering into the budget should be a priority.

The Traffic Safety Committee commented on three issues:

- Cedar Street/Country Hill Mirror – They recommended that two signs be installed, one on either side of the intersection, indicating a dangerous intersection, instead of using a mirror.
- Blackington Building – They recommended that the front section be for "drop-offs" only.
- Boulder at Country Village – J. Malloy discussed it with G. Morse; they determined that the boulder is within the Town's right-of-way. J. Malloy was asked to contact the business owner.

It was the consensus of the Board that a Saturday budget meeting was unnecessary, since there are so few increases or changes in the budget.

Old Business

H. White asked how the Class 2 license criteria on property lines would be enforced. J. Malloy said that the Building Inspector will make inspections to ensure that the Class 2 licensees are in compliance. If any violations are discovered, they will have 14 days to fix any problems.

H. White asked whether the Board of Health was informed about the grease trap issue. J. Malloy said that he had spoken with Bernie Lorkiewicz, and they have been notified.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of Spinney's Automotive and their Class 2 license. J. Malloy said that they have been scheduled for the January 20th meeting.

D. Sosik thanked the Traffic Safety Committee for their recommendations.

New Business

There was no new business.

Ask the Selectmen

C. Blanchard received a call from a resident on Fiske Hill Road who indicated that there is a problem with drainage, causing ice to build up at the bottom of Fiske Hill Road.

C. Blanchard announced that nomination papers for the April 12th election are available in the Town Clerk's office.

Employee Letter

J. Malloy and the Board received a letter from a number of employees regarding the new merit based pay system. Larry Adams appeared before the Board, and some of the department heads and staff were also present. He thanked J. Malloy for his communication to the staff, and apologized if the tone of the letter that had been sent to him had been interpreted as overly harsh. He expressed the need to seek a systematic way for the Board to address the concerns of staff and to clarify a variety of issues. He requested that there be ongoing dialogue to pursue the issues in detail and to avoid time constraints and delays that have occurred in the past. A. Wilson thanked everyone for coming, and said that the communications were new to the Board, and the members needed time to digest the letter and the response from the Town Administrator. He agreed with the need for some form of dialogue between the Board, the Personnel Committee and the staff that does not presently exist.

C. Blanchard said that the intention of the new policy was for reasonable increases for staff that would be competitive with union agreements and other communities. A. Wilson said that the Board feels that there is a very fine staff in Sturbridge, and they want to keep it that way. L. Adams said that he and the rest of the staff feel privileged to work for Sturbridge and want to continue working in a supportive and professional environment.

January 5, 2004

MOTION: To convene in executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; and to invite the members of the Tantasqua Regional School Committee to attend; not to reconvene in open session, by D. Schmida.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date