

September 7, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

Present: Charles Blanchard, Vice-Chairman
Doris Sosik
Hal White
David Schmida
James Malloy, Town Administrator

The Vice-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 16, 2004 as amended, by D. Sosik.
2nd: D. Schmida
Vote: All in favor.

Pole Hearing – South Road

Bob Strand of Verizon appeared before the Board. J. Malloy said that Greg Morse had no objection, as long as the poles are placed as far out of the right of way as possible, due to the narrow configuration. Tom Chamberland, Tree Warden, expressed concern that the pole to be set between poles #2 and #3 will need a cross arm to extend the wire out beyond the existing 16 inch maple tree located about 7 feet north of the new pole. He noted that South Road was designated as a Scenic Road in April 2004.

B. Strand indicated that he was under the impression that the Board did not want him to situate poles so that lines would go across roads. C. Blanchard said that the Board's opinion regarding lines crossing roads was specific to the previous pole hearing, and there was no policy regarding it. He said that the Board reviews each case individually.

J. Malloy said that he would review pole hearing applications before they are scheduled to come before the Board of Selectmen, as he does with liquor license applications.

C. Blanchard suggested that B. Strand work out a solution with G. Morse and T. Chamberland, then submit revised paperwork. B. Strand said that if there is a spot that G. Morse, T. Chamberland and the property owners agree upon which meets engineering approval, the Board could consider the original application with a revised sketch.

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**MOTION: To continue the pole hearing until October 4, 2004 at 6:35 p.m.,
by H. White.**

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

T. Chamberland had also stated in his memo that he has not received a response from Verizon on setting new tie back poles at pole #64 Holland Road and pole #7 Collette Road so that he could remove the dead trees that have guy cables attached to them. This was requested by Mass. Electric to Verizon last February/March. B. Strand said that he had given T. Chamberland the Mass. Electric engineer's phone number.

C. Blanchard said that the Board is concerned about the situation at Arnold Road, and there was some confusion about where to position the poles. J. Malloy said that he had placed several calls to B. Strand and Bob Leary, but received no response from either of them.

B. Strand requested a copy of the taking regarding Arnold Road. J. Malloy suggested that B. Strand phone him at 10:00 a.m. on September 8th.

Interview with Donald Michaels

Donald Michaels appeared before the Board for his interview to serve on the Tantasqua Study Committee. He said that he was concerned about Tantasqua High School and the impact it has on town finances. He has two children in Burgess Elementary School. He has a doctorate in health education and a minor in educational systems. He has been a resident of Sturbridge since 1987, has served on the Finance Committee, and as a coach in the soccer league. He said that he has no pre-conceived notions about the Tantasqua situation, and said that the role of the committee is to find information about a complicated issue. He would seek an understanding of the economic impact of the decision. He said that he would have no difficulty with a time commitment for the process.

Resignation

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Stephanie Howe as a full-time
police officer, by H. White.**

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Senior Municipal Service Program

**MOTION: To approve Rita Choquet's participation in the Senior
Municipal Service Program for FY05 working with the Water
Department, by D. Sosik.**

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Local Emergency Preparedness Grant

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to serve as the contract manager and to execute the grant contract between the Commonwealth and Town, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Interview with Sue Haslam

Sue Haslam appeared before the Board for her interview to serve on the Tantasqua Study Committee. She has a teaching degree and a legal degree, and presently works in insurance. She has a daughter in the first grade. She said that she is not biased regarding the Tantasqua issue, and is open minded. She is interested in finding out what would be involved in separating from the school district, what would be the impact on Sturbridge financially, the legal process and the logistics of it. She would have no difficulty with the time commitment, and is prepared for a time intensive process.

Interview with Allen Falke

Allen Falke appeared before the Board for his interview to serve on the Tantasqua Study Committee. He has two children, ages 4 and 2. He is an attorney and a CPA. He is open minded on the issue, and would look into whether it is legally possible to secede from the school district, and whether the state would be willing to reimburse for the high school. He has a flexible work schedule, and would be able to make the necessary time commitment.

Miscellaneous

MOTION: To waive the connection fee for the Vilandre family, per G. Morse's memo, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman to sign the Chapter 90 contract, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy informed the Board that historical documents have been found at the Library in Sturbridge regarding town militia activities dating from 1745 to 1750.

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J. Malloy said that the Police Department is participating in the CERT Program. Sgt. Alan Curboy would like to go to Florida to provide post-hurricane assistance. FEMA would cover his travel expenses. It was the consensus of the Board that Sgt. Curboy not be required to use his vacation time to do this.

Appointment to the Tantasqua Study Committee

The members of the Board agreed that all of the candidates are well qualified to serve, and their decision would be a difficult one.

MOTION: To appoint Sue Haslam to the Tantasqua Study Committee, with the understanding that it was a difficult decision since the other candidates were well qualified, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy suggested inviting Donald Michaels and Allen Falke to participate.

Old Business

H. White thanked J. Malloy for following up on the setback issue.

D. Sosik asked why the new Chinese restaurant has stopped action at the site. J. Malloy said that they have complied with their violation notice regarding open pits and trenches.

D. Sosik asked about the status of the Strategic Planning Survey. J. Malloy said that he needs only 19 more completed surveys to reach 80%.

C. Blanchard asked about the status of the bids on the communication system. J. Malloy said that they will be reviewed by the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

New Business

C. Blanchard said that the Board had received a letter from Escape Estates requesting that the Board consider an additional lot. It was the consensus of the Board that the Board already has all of the necessary facts, and that they not be invited back.

C. Blanchard announced Trail Day at Westville on October 3rd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ask the Selectmen

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C. Blanchard received a call from Ruth McDonough, who said that the sound was excellent this evening on Channel 12, but that Channel 11 (Community Calendar) has a background buzz. J. Malloy said that the receiver was out of order.

MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, not to reconvene in open session, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date