

November 15, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2004**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Charles Blanchard
 Doris Sosik
 Hal White
 David Schmida
 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 1, 2004 as corrected, by
 C. Blanchard.**

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

**MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of November 1,
 2004, to remain confidential, by C. Blanchard.**

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Quarterly Report

Barbara Barry, Finance Director, was unable to attend, so J. Malloy read her report to the Board (copy on file). R.E. Brown and Company is in the process of auditing Fiscal Year 2004. Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills are expected to be mailed on November 19th, and will be due on December 20th. On November 3rd, the Town received a \$1,034,440 loan and \$276,585 grant from the USDA for the Big Alum Sewer Project. The Town will be offering on-line bill payment for payment of current real estate and personal property bills, water and sewer bills and excise bills.

B. Barry had sent J. Malloy a memo indicating that she supports the article that the Finance Committee put forth for the Special Town Meeting warrant to transfer \$250,000 of Free Cash into the Stabilization Fund.

Appointments

**MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Harold
 Nichols as the Interim Building Inspector for 15 hours per
 week at a rate of \$360 per week, by H. White.**

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2nd: C. Blanchard.

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Kelly Doyle as the Conservation Agent, subject to her acceptance of the conditions set by the Town Administrator in his offer, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Governor's Highway Safety Bureau Grant

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to execute the grant contract, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Land Taking

MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; and Paragraph 6: To consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property; then reconvene in open session immediately afterward, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:48 p.m.

MOTION: To approve the Order of Taking as written dated 11/15/04 for 55 Champoux Road for the purpose of open space, per the Town Administrator's update of November 12, 2004 in the amount of \$62,500, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Mike Loin, Bertin Engineering – Spaho Sewer Extension

Mike Loin appeared before the Board.

MOTION: To approve the sewer extension application submitted by the Spaho Corporation for the extension of the public sewer system to the property located at Route 131 and Farquhar Road, for 21 condominium units as shown on a plan of land entitled "Estates at Sturbridge Farms, located at Route 131

and Farquhar Road,” designed by Bertin Engineering Associates, Inc. dated 11-1-04 by Michael Loin (“Plan”) with the following conditions: (1) that a sewer privilege fee be paid in full in the amount of \$124,026.84 to be paid at the time of connection; (2) that the final sewer engineering/design is approved by the DPW Director; and (3) that any substantive changes to the Plan, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall require a new application to the Selectmen for approval of a new sewer extension permit for the plan, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: Four in favor; C. Blanchard abstained.

C. Blanchard returned to the Board at 6:55 p.m.

Correspondence

C. Blanchard suggested writing a letter to CMRPC indicating that the Board has confidence in the Town Clerk’s figures, and to ask them to respond as to why their figures differ from the Town’s figures.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

H. White raised the issue of the pothole fund. He noted that each of the five towns voted a budget for Tantasqua at their Annual Town Meetings, and asked whether Tantasqua could spend more money than the Towns have authorized them to spend. J. Malloy said that Tantasqua could spend the pothole funds without further authorization from the Towns, and will check to confirm it. H. White asked whether the Town should take steps to claim a portion of the pothole funds. J. Malloy said that he had sent a letter via email to each of the Tantasqua School Committee members and the Superintendent, asking them to consider the original intent of the pothole funds.

C. Blanchard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Blanchard announced that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on the Town Common at 6:00 p.m. on December 3rd.

A.Wilson announced that the Budget Subcommittee for Tantasqua and Burgess budgets will meet each Monday in January and February to review line item details. He asked whether any of the Board members would be interested in

serving as liaison during the budget process. C. Blanchard volunteered. H. White suggested that it be brought up at the next meeting.

Empire Village – New Liquor License and Common Victualler License

Dong Yeou Ying and Attorney Joseph Lasorsa appeared before the Board. A. Wilson recommended that they wait to get a 2005 license, since their building is not completed and they would not be able to use the license until 2005. J. Lasorsa submitted a construction schedule to the Board. January is the anticipated time for the building to be finished. H. White asked whether a grease trap is part of the plan. J. Lasorsa said that a grease trap is usually standard for a new restaurant.

MOTION: To approve the Restaurant, All Alcohol Liquor License for Empire Village; weekday hours of 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and weekend hours of 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the Common Victualler License for Empire Village, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Special Town Meeting

Article #36: Zoning Board of Appeals Wages

C. Blanchard felt that it would be more appropriate to take it up later, closer to the end of the year, since it would be taken from free cash.

MOTION: To not place Article #36 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #37: Public Safety Complex Engineering/Architectural

MOTION: To place Article #37 on the Warrant and support it, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #38: Fire Department Purchase of Services

MOTION: To place and support Article #38, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #39: Landfill Overtime Account

MOTION: To place and support Article #39, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #40: Electric Inspector Wages

MOTION: To place and support Article #40, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #41: Stabilization Transfer

MOTION: To place and support Article #41, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #42: Community Preservation – Land Acquisition

MOTION: To place and support Article #42, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #43: Community Preservation – Property Appraisals

MOTION: To place and support Article #43, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #44: Community Preservation – Historic District Signs

MOTION: To place Article #44 and hold making a recommendation until the December 6th meeting, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Article #45: Community Preservation – Historic Preservation

MOTION: To place and support Article #45, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #46: Woodside Circle – Sewer Engineering

MOTION: To place and support Article #46, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #47: Appropriation from Sewer Surplus

MOTION: To place and support Article #47, by D. Schmida.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Article #48: Appropriation from Water Surplus

MOTION: To place and support Article #48, by D. Schmida.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Article #49: Bicycle Helmet Law – Non-Criminal Disposition

MOTION: To place and support Article #49, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Article #50: Verizon Easement

MOTION: To place and support Article #50, by H. White.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Article #51: Discontinuance of Portions of Walker Road

Article #52: Discontinuance of Portions of Bushnell Road

The Board had previously voted to place and support Articles #51 and #52.

Article #53: Budget Amendments

MOTION: To place and support Article #53, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

H. White suggested that the Board place, but not vote to support the article until getting information about the current appropriation, and the recommendation from the Personnel Committee.

D. Sosik amended her motion to only place Article #53, until further information has been received.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #54: Tantasqua Study Committee – Financial Consultant

MOTION: To place Article #54, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Article #55: WWTF Upgrade Engineering

MOTION: To place Article #55 and recommend approval, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To close the Special Town Meeting Warrant, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

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Vote: All in favor.

Ask the Selectmen

C. Blanchard said that there was one call regarding the Spaho project; the caller suggested giving a copy of the letter to the ZBA, since it will require a special permit from the ZBA.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date