

December 20, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 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 accept the minutes of December 6, 2004 as submitted, by D. Sosik.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To accept the executive session minutes of December 6, 2004 as submitted, to remain confidential, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club – Ice Racing

MOTION: To grant a permit for Sideways Promotions to operate ice racing at the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club between January 2, 2005 and March 6, 2005 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., ice conditions permitting, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Appointment

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Ginger Peabody to the Council on Aging for a term to expire in 2005, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Regarding the Building Inspector position, J. Malloy suggested that the Board discuss the negotiations with non-union personnel in executive session.

Shepard Property

MOTION: To approve/execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Shepard property, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Town Administrator's Matching Grant Funds

MOTION: To approve the use of \$18.50 from the Town Administrator's Matching Grant Account for the Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Warrington Property

J. Malloy provided the Board with a document to be signed (copy on file) on the Warrington property on Cooper Road, which the Board had opted not to exercise the Town's right of first refusal.

Miscellaneous

- A. Wilson had asked about the vote taken last year to require Class II dealers to provide better plans. J. Malloy submitted copies of the minutes of the July 19, 2004 meeting and the December 15, 2003 meeting (copies on file). Mr. Malloy's understanding was that this applied to new applicants and not as an annual requirement for the applicants.

A. Wilson recommended that the Board sign the Class II licenses, then prior to renewing them next year, the licensees should provide better plans, indicating a description of the site, number of cars, and where they will be stored on the site. H. White said that when the licensees apply for their 2006 licenses, they should submit their plans by October 1, 2005, to give the Building Inspector time to review them; then the Board of Selectmen could act on them on the first or second meeting in December. It was the consensus of the Board that the plans need not be professionally done by an engineer or surveyor, but should be readable, clear layouts, and that the licensees be given a list of criteria to meet. J. Malloy agreed to put together a draft.

- J. Malloy had forwarded a memo with suggested updates to the Sturbridge Traffic Rules and Regulations (copy on file). He asked the Board to review the suggestions, to be discussed in mid-January.

December 20, 2004

- J. Malloy informed the Board that Fannin-Lehner completed their reports on the Old Burial Ground regarding the work that they accomplished this past year (copies on file).

Old Sturbridge Village – Change of Manager on Liquor License

Beverly Shepard of Old Sturbridge Village appeared before the Board. Their application was in order.

MOTION: To approve the change of manager application for Old Sturbridge Village dated November 22, 2004, with Nicholas Grimaldi as the new manager, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Michael Norton – Bike Race in Sturbridge

Michael Norton appeared before the Board to request permission to hold a bicycle race on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting at Tantasqua High School. J. Malloy will set up a meeting with the police and fire chiefs, Deb Boyd and Michael Norton, then M. Norton will return to meet with the Board again on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

Good News Garage – Name Change on Class II License

MOTION: To approve the corporate name change for the Good News Garage to Good News Garage of LSS, by D. Sosik.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Sturbridge Isle – Change of Manager on Liquor License

Laurel Caouette of Sturbridge Isle appeared before the Board. The application was in order.

MOTION: To grant the change of manager to Laurel Caouette for Sturbridge Isle, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

J. Malloy noted that on the correspondence list there was a letter from the Attorney General in Connecticut regarding the Nipmuc petitions. He asked the Board whether they wanted to take any action on the matter. A. Wilson suggested asking Perkins-Coie for advice as to whether the Board should take

December 20, 2004

any action at this time. He noted that at some point the appeal process will end. C. Blanchard noted that the Board is against the casino, not against the recognition of the Nipmucs. He said that the Board should have a plan of what to accomplish, and policies and procedures should be followed properly. He suggested finding out how much money is available to spend.

H. White asked about the status of the CPA appropriations. J. Malloy said that the CPA suggested trying to negotiate with the property owner, and if negotiations were unsuccessful, to go back to Town Meeting to rescind the debt authorization. Mr. Malloy agreed to set up a meeting after the holidays.

C. Blanchard noted that there is a new restaurant sign near the Good News Garage. J. Malloy said that someone from Lola's Restaurant picked up an application for a Common Victualler license.

D. Sosik asked whether the Sturbridge Bread Company is required to have a Common Victualler license. J. Malloy said that he would look into it.

A. Wilson reminded the Board that their reviews for the Town Administrator's performance evaluation are due on January 3rd.

Pizzeria Uno – Change of Manager on Liquor License

MOTION: To approve the change of manager for Pizzeria Uno to Gene Ryan, by D. Sosik.
2nd: D. Schmida
Vote: All in favor.

New Business

C. Blanchard noted that Town Hall had been closed due to the snowstorm on December 20th. He suggested that Town Hall be closed only for severe storms, when local businesses are closed. J. Malloy said that sometimes a weather forecast is worse than what it turns out to be, and it is difficult to know what businesses are going to do, since there is no central clearinghouse for that kind of information. He said that he is usually very conservative about closings. A. Wilson said that he did not think it would be possible to draft a policy to cover all situations.

Ask the Selectmen

There were no calls.

MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; and #6: To consider the purchase,

December 20, 2004

exchange, taking, lease or value of real property; not to reconvene in open session, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

MOTION: To invite the Community Preservation Committee to attend the executive session, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date