

July 5, 2005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JULY 5, 2005**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
Hal White
Doris Sosik
William Emrich
James Malloy, Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the minutes of June 20, 2005 until the necessary corrections have been made.

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of June 20, 2005 as submitted, to remain confidential, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Quarterly Report

Barbara Barry, Finance Director, read her report to the Board (copy on file). She reviewed the on-line bill payment service which is available to taxpayers. She said that she is in the process of collecting delinquent real estate and personal property taxes. At this time there are 31 personal property accounts outstanding, totaling approximately \$4,000 and 83 real estate accounts outstanding totaling approximately \$134,000. Any real estate accounts that remain outstanding after August 1, 2005 will be advertised for non-payment of taxes and will have a lien filed against them.

B. Barry requested that the Board consider increasing the mileage reimbursement rate of \$.30 per mile. She submitted to the Board information from the IRS showing that the current IRS mileage rate as of January 1, 2005 is \$.40.5 cents per mile. The Board asked for a cost analysis.

Mary Berry, Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative – Community Development Block Grant

Mary Berry and William Scanlan of CMRPC appeared before the Board. M. Berry said that she and William Scanlan had met with J. Malloy. W. Scanlan outlined the role of CMRPC in the grant process. He said that the Town of Sturbridge must be the applicant, and the CMRPC will write the grant at no

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charge, as administrator of the grant. The maximum amount of the grant is \$800,000. It would be partial funding for the mobile home park's privately owned treatment plant. The Town would be the applicant and recipient of the funds, but would not be the owner of the treatment plant. The CMRPC would take care of quarterly reports and financial management. The Town must hold a public hearing.

W. Scanlan said that the other option would be to self administer the grant; their fee would be \$50,000, which would leave \$750,000 for the project itself. The application has a grant writing reimbursement of \$6,000. There would be an income survey of the residents. The project would have to benefit low and moderate income people.

J. Malloy noted that this is a private project and the Town could help as a passive agency. He said that we will know what percentage of people meet the low to moderate income guidelines after the survey has been completed.

MOTION: That the Board endorse taking the first step to apply for a CDBG grant using CMRPC to help with the application and administer the program, by A. Wilson.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: Three in favor; D. Sosik abstained.

Zoning Study Committee Candidates

Scott Garieri said that he has been a lifelong resident and local businessman. He expressed concern about big businesses running small businesses out of town. He said that growth is good for the town, and small businesses should be considered. He said that as a member of the Zoning Study Committee, he could offer good insight on how small businesses would be affected by zoning.

Maureen Ouellette said that she had moved to Sturbridge four years ago. She is retired and said that she would have the time to contribute to the community. She has read the Strategic Plan and considers it to be a wonderful program. Her background is in operational health care.

Michael Hoyer said that he has been a resident of Sturbridge for five years, but has been coming to Sturbridge for 33 years. He works for an environmental company. He said that changes and development are inevitable, but there should be improvements in development. He said that it is important that people who grow up in a town be able to continue to live there.

Scott Glass has lived in Sturbridge since 1998. He is a CPA working in Worcester. He said that Sturbridge has missed some development opportunities, such as a movie theater, children's amusement park and home improvement center, resulting in the loss of convenience, jobs and revenue for Sturbridge. He

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said that an AAA rated store like Lowe's would be an asset and might even raise property values in Sturbridge.

MOTION: To appoint Maureen Ouellette as the resident member appointed by this Board to the Zoning Study Committee, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: H. White in favor; three opposed.

A.Wilson said that it would be important to have small business represented on the Committee. W. Emrich agreed. H. White noted that all four candidates were well qualified and bring differing values and perspectives.

MOTION: To appoint Scott Garieri to the Zoning Study Committee, by W. Emrich.

2nd: A. Wilson

Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy noted that there are openings on the Finance Committee and Planning Board.

Senior Garden Project

Barbara Search and Gerry Suprenant appeared before the Board. B. Search said that they would like to establish a landscaped area at Cedar Street and Rt. 20, complete with a faux pond, walkway and benches, to be handicapped accessible. B. Search requested cooperation from the townspeople and departments within the town, businesses and organizations for financial support and volunteers to help on planting day and to maintain the garden area.

G. Suprenant showed the Board a model of the proposed project. He noted that the focal point would be the 85 foot faux pond (filled with 8" deep stone dust), and plants will be chosen that complement one another.

B. Search said that there is not a budget for the project yet, but if volunteers are willing to donate their time and if there is money available from the Town, that will affect the budget. J. Malloy said that under the charter the Town Administrator has authority over town property. He noted that there is a line item in the Betterment account for streetscape work, and he has committed \$500 out of the FY05 budget. He said that there are funds in the FY06 budget which could be utilized for this project.

A.Wilson expressed concern about the drop off point on Cedar Street, noted that it is a busy traffic area. J. Malloy said that Alexandra Pifer, owner of Country Village, had sent a letter of support for the project.

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Carol Goodwin, Open Space Committee – Update on the Open Space Plan

Carol Goodwin of the Open Space Committee appeared before the Board. She expressed their need to apply for a Self-Help Grant by August. They met with Steve Wallace of CMRPC, and set up a timetable. She thanked Carol Childress, who facilitated it. C. Childress indicated that Steve Wallace's services would cost \$2,000 and the necessary maps would cost approximately \$2,000; she felt that \$5,000 would be a good amount to request from the Board of Selectmen.

J. Malloy had reviewed the agreement, and said that it looked fine. He noted that the Board would be required to hold a public hearing, and that Lucent gift fund money could be used.

MOTION: That the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract for \$5,000 from the Lucent Gift Fund, by D. Sosik.

2nd: A. Wilson

Vote: All in favor.

Auctioneer's Permit

MOTION: To approve the auctioneer's permit for Robert Glass Associates for the auction on the Town Common for the Federated Church on August 13, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Resignation/Appointments

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Alan Jeskey with regret, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Nipmuc Appeal

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a notice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (copy on file) regarding the remaining Nipmuc appeal. The BIA indicated that for the purpose of this appeal, the Town would need to reassert its interested party status. It was the consensus of the Board that the Town reassert its interested party status.

Sturbridge Fire Fighters

J. Malloy indicated that the decision (copy on file) has been received on the appeal filed by the Fire Fighters Union on the original Labor Relations

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Commission decision on their recognition. In summary, the LRC dismissed their appeal.

Resignations

MOTION: To accept the letter of resignation from Lawrence Adams as Town Planner with regret, by D. Sosik

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To accept the letter of resignation from David Yaskulka from the Planning Board with regret, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

H. White informed the Board that Beverly Shepard, President of Old Sturbridge Village, had invited him to meet with her to discuss the strategic plan for Old Sturbridge Village, and she agreed to meet again with the Board of Selectmen. He will draft a list of items for her to address.

H. White asked whether Tighe & Bond had sent status reports. J. Malloy said that they had, and were available for the Board's review.

New Business

Tom Earls said that he had submitted applications for sewer permits for 6 and 8 Hall Road and 5 Whittemore Road to Greg Morse, DPW Director. He requested lateral connections. J. Malloy noted that three lots existed before the sewer moratorium; the lots were recently subdivided. The stub was installed on Hall Road. T. Earls noted that his applications were in G. Morse's hands before the sewer moratorium.

MOTION: To grant Tom Earls a sewer connection for 8 Hall Road, by A. Wilson.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To vote to deny a sewer connection for 5 Whittemore Road and 6 Hall Road, by A. Wilson.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Gary Galonek and David Healey appeared before the Board to discuss the Kelly Farm parcel on Rt. 15 and the sewer line engineering plan and other efforts for a

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privately funded line to go down Rt. 15. G. Galonek said that the Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative is now pursuing an on-site solution. He requested clarification of the Board's vote in June, which precipitated his spending \$50,000 in engineering fees. He said that the infrastructure was never put into place. He requested that the Board reconsider their portion of the allocation.

A. Wilson said that when Mary Berry of the Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative had come before the Board to withdraw her request, the Board had voted to reconsider the original motion, which was for the two entities combined. The Board rescinded their vote relative to the sewer line, then voted to put a moratorium on it, which applies to all. He suggested that Gary Galonek submit a new application, then the Board will deal with it.

Ask the Selectmen

H. White received a call from a resident who wished to remind the Board about the death of Robert Provost, who had served the Town for 45 years as a firefighter, Sealer of Weights and Measures, and on the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Board expressed condolences and gratitude.

MOTION: To enter into 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