

September 19, 2005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19, 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**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of August 15, 2005 as amended, by H. White.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: W. Emrich**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

**Department Head Monthly Report**

Police Chief Thomas Button read his report to the Board (copy on file). Chief Button informed the Board that the accreditation re-certification of the Sturbridge Police Department was done by the Mass Police Accreditation Commission, and the assessment team recommended that it be granted. He said that the Police Dept. hosted the National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Heritage Green, paid for out of the Policing Grant. Approximately 100 people attended, and a DJ, moon bounce, dunk tank, pizza and refreshments were provided. The Fire Dept., District Attorney's office and Harrington Memorial Hospital also participated.

Chief Button said that the Cops and Kids parties were held on Friday evenings at the Westville Recreational Area, with games, music, pizza and refreshments. Each date was a success with a good turnout of children and young adults.

Chief Button informed the Board that the Police Dept. received a Portable Breath Test Machine valued at \$1,000 from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. The Police Dept. obtained an emergency generator that had been given to the Highway Dept. from the Dept. of Homeland Security acquisition process.

**Big Alum Lake Drawdown**

**MOTION: To approve the request to draw down Big Alum Lake 30 inches, as per the 9/1/05 request of the Big Alum Lake Association, by D. Sosik.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: W. Emrich**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Lieutenant Ron Woolhouse**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a request from the Fire Chief (copy on file) regarding Lt. Ron Woolhouse. Lt. Woolhouse presently serves as the Fire Inspector/Investigator and as a call Firefighter/EMT. There is a mandatory retirement for firefighters at age 65, which will prevent Lt. Woolhouse from continuing as a firefighter. J. Malloy agreed with Chief Senecal that Lt. Woolhouse provides a valuable service, and stated his intention to appoint him as Fire Inspector/Investigator and EMT (not firefighter) at his current rate of pay, subject to the Board's confirmation. This will provide Chief Senecal with a six-month opportunity to recruit or promote from within for these positions when Lt. Woolhouse will be fully retired early next year.

**MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Lieutenant Woolhouse as the Fire Inspector/Investigator and EMT, by H. White.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Senior Municipal Service Program**

**MOTION: To approve the Senior Municipal Service Program application of Edward Douty to work for the Public Works Department, by H. White.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: W. Emrich**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Financial Information**

J. Malloy informed the Board that the Town's Free Cash figure has been approved at \$1,480,965, and the tax rates for FY06 have been approved at \$11.80 for residential, a 4.5% decrease from the \$12.35 rate in FY05. The FY06 tax rate will be \$16.48 for commercial, industrial and personal property, a 3.6% decrease from the \$17.09 rate in FY05.

**Personnel Policy Amendment**

At the last meeting, the Board had requested that J. Malloy draft an amendment to the Personnel Policy to address the inconsistency in the Town's Family Medical Leave Act policy. The following wording would be inserted immediately preceding the last paragraph of Section 5.09 of the Town's Personnel Policies:

“An employee may utilize up to three (3) days of sick leave per fiscal year for the birth, adoption or foster care of a child or to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition.”

**MOTION: To adopt the above policy to be inserted as the second to last paragraph in Section 5.09 of the Town’s Personnel Policies, by H. White.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Personnel Request**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a request from the Library Director that the Board of Selectmen approve allowing town employees to contribute to a sick leave bank for a long-time library employee who will be out for an extended period of time due to a medical condition. The Board has previously approved similar programs for employees that are stricken with major illnesses requiring long-term leave.

**MOTION: To approve the creation of a sick leave bank whereby town employees may donate some of their sick leave to Dawn Clarke, by D. Sosik.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: H. White**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Acorn Lane**

**MOTION: To approve the name of Acorn Lane in the Laurel Woods subdivision, by H. White.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: W. Emrich**

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Housing Authority**

At the last meeting, the Board was presented with a recommendation from the Housing Authority that it be dissolved. J. Malloy submitted to the Board MGL Ch. 121B, §3 “Housing Authorities: creation; dissolution” (copy on file), and he had discussed this section with Town Counsel. In summary, it requires a vote of the Housing Authority that it has no property to administer and all outstanding obligations have been met. Once this is done, then it requires a vote of the Town Meeting to abolish the Housing Authority. J. Malloy recommended that this be done concurrently with the creation of the Housing Partnership Committee as an appointed Committee at the next Town Meeting, so that there is a clear explanation and direction in the area of affordable housing. No further action is required until the Board sets a date for a Town Meeting.

**Tax Bill Stuffer**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board the draft of the tax bill stuffer (copy on file) that will be reviewed and finalized, then included in the tax bills that will go out during the next week.

**Special Event Permit**

J. Malloy submitted to the Board an application for a special event (copy on file) from Attorney Matt Rousseau for an open house that his law firm and ReMax Realty is planning for Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Police Chief Button had submitted an email expressing his concerns (copy on file). Chief Button indicated that the Board should require that the applicant obtain permission from abutting businesses to allow spillover parking.

Matt Rousseau appeared before the Board. He said that Red Roof Catering (from Micknuck's), and Pioneer Brewing from Hyland Orchards will serve their products at the event. M. Rousseau said that they have obtained a tent permit from the Building Inspector. They sent out 290 invitations, and expect approximately 150 – 200 people to attend over a three-hour period. He said that there would be additional parking available at Fiske Hill Plaza, and he would get permission from the owner, Walter Regep.

Chief Button expressed concern about the possibility of underage people being served alcohol at the event. He also noted that when there is an open bar, people tend to overdrink. He said that there must be two officers serving on the police detail to monitor the activities; one officer would ensure safe pedestrian crossing across Wallace Road.

**MOTION: To approve the Special Permit for Attorney Matthew Rousseau contingent upon having two special detail officers on duty, one to be stationed at Wallace Road to ensure the safe crossing of pedestrians; the applicant must provide permission from the owner of Fiske Hill Plaza for the use of the parking lot for additional parking; and that the parking plan be submitted to the Police Chief no later than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, by A. Wilson.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Sosik**

**Vote: All in favor.**

A.Wilson requested that Chief Button provide the Board with a report after the event.

**Correspondence**

September 19, 2005

A.Wilson informed the Board that he had received a summons last week relative to the decision on Stanley Choinski's sewer tie-in on Westwood Drive (copy on file). He suggested that copies be made for the rest of the Board.

A.Wilson noted that September is Senior Month at Old Sturbridge Village, with a special discount and programs for seniors.

A.Wilson announced that the MMA Joint Conference will be held in Worcester on Sept. 23 & 24.

### **Old Business**

A.Wilson announced that on October 11<sup>th</sup> the Board will meet with the Board of Assessors and Visions, and asked the Board to prepare questions for them ahead of time.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Ask the Selectmen**

H. White received a call from a resident who did not wish to be identified publicly, who asked about the status of Pioneer Brewing and Hyland Orchard. J. Malloy said that Hyland Orchard is still the liquor license holder with Don Damon as manager on record, but there will be a license change shortly.

H. White said that the second call was regarding the residential tax rate for FY06. He said that the rate is \$11.80.

**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.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: H. White**

**Roll call vote: All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

---

BOS Clerk

Date