

October 3, 2005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2005**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Hal White
 Doris Sosik
 David Schmida
 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 approve the minutes of September 6, 2005 as amended, by
 D. Sosik.**

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 19, 2005 as submitted,
 by D. Sosik.**

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: Four in favor; D. Schmida abstained.

**MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of September 19,
 2005, to remain confidential, by D. Sosik.**

2nd: H. White

Vote: Four in favor; D. Schmida abstained.

Appointments

**MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Jane
 McClelland to the Cultural Council for a term to expire in 2006,
 by D. Sosik.**

2nd: W. Emrich

H. White noted that the Board does not have background information on Jane McClelland or Bruce Smith, and recommended that the Board hold action pending receipt of that information. D. Sosik withdrew her motion; W. Emrich withdrew his second. J. Malloy agreed to provide the Board with that information for the next meeting.

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MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Linda Coates as the Administrative Assistant for Planning and Zoning, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Water Service Request

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a request to connect 127 and 135 Main Street to Town water (copy on file). J. Malloy, Greg Morse, DPW Director and Police Chief Button met with the property owner, and they recommended that the owner request Town water instead of having a private well, based on the public safety factor of having a fire suppression system installed and the availability of town water, as well as having a more accurate method of bill sewer (water meters). The property owner submitted a site plan to the Planning Board.

H. White reminded the Board that there is a moratorium on sewer and water connections, and called attention to the wastewater analysis update for June 2005; both of these addresses have an estimated sewer usage of 200 gallons. He felt that the requested capacity was in excess of the reserve capacity, so he was opposed to it. J. Malloy said that he was under the impression that the moratorium was for extensions for subdivisions; he pointed out that 127 and 135 Main Street are already on sewer lines.

A. Wilson noted that there is an 8 inch line, stopping at the top of the hill, and there are some pressure problems. He asked whether the applicant had applied for a sewer connection. J. Malloy said that he would review it for clarification, and would ask them to calculate what the flow is, then bring it back to the Board. A. Wilson asked whether the moratorium is applicable to existing properties with stubs. J. Malloy said that he would research it.

Old Business

H. White asked whether Beverly Sheppard, President of Old Sturbridge Village had been rescheduled to appear before the Board. J. Malloy said that he would find out.

H. White noted that the tax rate has gone down, but valuations have gone up, so most residents have seen an increase in their tax bill.

H. White asked about the status of the McGilpin Road issue. A. Wilson said that Greg Morse was to stake the first portion of the road at 211, where he thought he would be putting the road. After it is staked and drainage installed, then there will be another meeting with the residents during the winter. J. Malloy said that he would follow up with G. Morse.

H. White said that there is a problem with commercial vehicles at Forge Landscaping & Irrigation, and requested that the Building Inspector look into it. He noted that the word "nursery" is not mentioned on the Forge Landscaping sign.

D. Sosik asked about feedback regarding the special event that was approved for a location at Wallace Road and Rt. 131. J. Malloy said that they had decided not to serve alcohol at the event; there was a good sized crowd, which was handled very well.

D. Sosik asked whether J. Malloy had heard from the developer as to when he would be working on the intersection of Arnold Road and Rt. 20, since the utilities have been moved at that intersection. J. Malloy said that he would follow up with the builder.

New Business

A. Wilson noted that J. Malloy had attended the ICMA Conference in Minneapolis. J. Malloy said that he went to hear four keynote speakers: Kevin Farrell of Nike Corp. regarding making the workplace an interesting place for employees; Robert Putnam regarding community engagement in changing America; Ann Lancaster and David Stillman regarding the intergenerational work force; and Garrison Keillor of Lake Wobegone fame. He also attended educational sessions regarding retiree health care issues, media relations, national citizens' survey and more. He attended "Everything Old is New Again" regarding the re-use of historic properties. He informed the Board that he will chair the host committee when ICMA comes to Boston.

A. Wilson said that he had attended the meeting in Holland, where it was decided that Jim Wettlaufer will represent the five towns in negotiations with the teachers' union. He said that it was decided that the Tantasqua marching band will perform for three of the towns one year, then the other two towns the next year at the Memorial Day parades.

D. Sosik asked for clarification regarding the insurance percentage paid by the Town. J. Malloy said that the Board of Selectmen, not Town Meeting, makes the decision on the percentage. Town Meeting voted on the \$784,000 appropriation, which was sufficient to cover the 60%. He noted that the police contract has not been signed.

Ask the Selectmen

D. Schmida received a call from a resident who asked about Rachel Sprague's appointment. J. Malloy said that she applied for an appointment to the Council on Aging.

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H. White received a call from Charles Blanchard, who requested clarification on the appointment of Jim Wettlaufer, noting that the list of contacts did not include Burgess; and that he thought that the Board had voted 65% on medical insurance over a three-year period, if the Town could afford it. J. Malloy said that it was 60%, not 65%. A. Wilson added that it was a goal to try to achieve it, not a commitment.

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, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date