

November 7, 2005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 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 accept the minutes of October 3, 2005 as amended, by D. Sosik.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of October 17, 2005 as submitted, by D. Sosik.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: Four in favor; D. Schmida abstained.

Water Connection Request

Leonard Jalbert, Jalbert Engineering, appeared before the Board. He requested that the Board grant water connections for three single family homes on Rt. 131 owned by Rom's Restaurant. The proposal would eliminate the need for three sawcut trenches on Route 131, and would provide more accurate billing for the sewer service which was previously approved at this site. There were no technical or flow issues regarding the Town's water system that would prevent the connection.

L. Jalbert had prepared a sketch off of the USGS maps indicating the extension of the lines to the property. They would be extending it 300 feet from their property adjacent to the Kahula property.

MOTION: To approve the water connections equal to three single family homes located at 209 Main Street as proposed, provided that the final design is approved by Greg Morse, DPW Director, by D. Sosik.

2nd: W. Emrich

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H. White noted that there is a sewer moratorium, and expressed concern about control of the sewage flow. He noted that there is a reserve of 600 gallons; this would increase the flow by 2,320 gallons. J. Malloy suggested that the Board review the sewer issue first, regarding approval of the additional flow, then deal with the water issue.

D. Sosik withdrew her motion; W. Emrich withdrew his second.

MOTION: To approve the sewer connection, not to exceed the flow beyond the 200 gpd stub (600 gpd total) reserved for those properties, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve water connections as proposed to Maple Hill Realty, provided that the final design is approved by the DPW Director, with the flow not to exceed 600 gallons/day, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

H. White recused himself from the Board.

MOTION: To approve the water connections for three single family units at 209 Main Street, with the connection point off Farquhar Road to the properties; that the final design be approved by the DPW Director, by A. Wilson.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: Four in favor; H. White abstained.

H. White returned to the Board.

Tom Chamberland, Veterans' Agent

T. Chamberland appeared before the Board to discuss Veterans Day activities. He said that due to the lack of response from Sturbridge veterans, the members of Post 109 had revised the Veterans Day program to just an open house with light food, entertainment by the Tantasqua High School Choraleers, Guest Speaker Senator Stephen Brewer, and a member of the Board of Selectmen. He said that Blue Star Banners are available at the Post for any families in Sturbridge with a relative who is serving in the military.

John and Janet Zafaris

John and Janet Zafaris appeared before the Board, and asked for an update regarding the issues raised at the last meeting. J. Zafaris said that sand bags

have been placed at the site, but more needs to be done, possibly a solid structure. He said that Robert Allard is willing to grant an easement for a pipe to be installed. J. Malloy said that the Town may meet the threshold for personal assistance, but not municipal assistance. He said that he would talk to Greg Morse, DPW Director about the matter and would contact Mr. and Mrs. Zafaris.

Resignations

MOTION: To accept the resignation of police officer Ralph Scala, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

H. White suggested that J. Malloy review why officers have left, and consider starting to do exit interviews for all employees that leave.

IOD Claim

MOTION: To approve the IOD Claim of Officers Alan Curboy and Sean Lewis for injuries sustained on 10/22/05 as per MGL Ch. 41, §111F and described in the 10/24/05 memo from Chief Thomas Button, by H. White.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

Cedar Lake Drawdown

MOTION: To approve the drawdown of Cedar Lake to a level of 56" as per the 10/25/05 request of the Cedar Lake Association, by H. White.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

Senior Municipal Service Program

MOTION: To approve the Senior Municipal Service Program request for Ellen Speed to work in the Sturbridge Finance Department, by D. Sosik.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

DPW Appointments

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Wayne Smith as a Laborer/Driver in the Sturbridge DPW, at a starting salary of \$14.08 per hour, with an effective date of 11/8/05;

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2nd: D. Schmida
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To confirm the Town Administrator's appointment of Robert Anderson as a Laborer/Driver in the Sturbridge DPW, at a starting salary of \$14.08 per hour, with an effective date of 11/14/05, by W. Emrich.

2nd: H. White
Vote: All in favor.

Opacum Land Trust

Carol Childress appeared before the Board to ask for assistance in meeting their goal of \$10,000 for signage. D. Sosik noted that there was a Conservation fund in the memory of Dan Szumilas. J. Malloy said that the Conservation Commission is considering using the money on some parcels of land.

MOTION: To approve the use of \$1,000 contingent upon the wording of the Lucent grant, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida
Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

H. White asked for an update regarding Forge Landscaping. J. Malloy said that he would ask Harold Nichols, Building Inspector, about it.

H. White asked about the status of the Rt. 131 engineering study. J. Malloy said that he would meet with Greg Morse and Peter Donahue. He said that Mass. Highway Dept. is moving ahead very quickly, and he will ask Parsons Engineering to meet with the Board during a work session for an update.

H. White noted that since the recent flooding began, there has been constant runoff on Rt. 131 and Shepard Road; and there has been a steady stream of water across Wallace Road.

A. Wilson said that during the November work session, J. Malloy is planning to discuss Town Hall and Center School building renovations; in December sewer issues will be discussed; in January the Board of Assessors will meet with the Board.

H. White asked about the status of the Fire Dept. staffing study. J. Malloy said that it was completed, and he sent it to the Fire Chief for his review and comments.

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H. White noted that about two years ago at Annual Town Meeting, the Town voted to approve money to purchase the Holland Road and Stallion Hill properties; there has been no progress in purchasing the properties, but the money is still committed. J. Malloy said that it will be necessary to rescind the \$800,000 debt authorization, and he would put an article on the December Special Town Meeting warrant.

H. White noted that the Board will require Class 2 licensees to provide a site map to scale. J. Malloy said that it would be included in the letters to Class 2 licensees.

A.Wilson said that Woodside Circle residents have circulated a petition for a warrant article to go forward with the project. They will meet with the Board on November 21st to request that it be placed on the warrant. It was the consensus of the Board that J. Malloy send letters to the Woodside Circle residents to let them know that it will be discussed on November 21st.

New Business

H. White suggested listing all of the items that will be discussed on the posted agenda on the Town's website.

D. Sosik said that a new sink should be installed at the Senior Center. J. Malloy said that he is in the process of addressing the issue.

Ask the Selectmen

H. White received a call from Tony Celuzza, who asked about the status of the appointment of the Charter Review Committee. J. Malloy said that he is still seeking a 5th member of the committee. He will send a memo to the departments, asking for recommendations on charter issues to be considered.

A.Wilson received a call from Mary Blanchard, who asked about the status of the appointment. She also stated that relative to the minutes of the ZBA, comments, questions and corrections by email are not being done by a majority of that board.

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; not to reconvene in open session, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date