

May 15, 2006

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MAY 15, 2006**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 Hal White
 Ted Goodwin
 William Emrich
 Steven Halterman
 James Malloy, Town Administrator

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

A.Wilson announced that on Monday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall there will be an informational meeting for McGilpin Road residents regarding the plan for fixing their road.

A.Wilson announced that on June 19th there will be a Special Election for a debt exclusion vote regarding the renovation of Town Hall and the Center School building.

A.Wilson announced that on Wednesday, May 24th at 2:00 p.m. there will be an LEPC meeting.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes of April 24, 2006 as corrected, by H. White.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

Tom Chamberland, Veterans' Agent – Memorial Day Activities

Tom Chamberland reviewed the pre-Memorial Day and Memorial Day activities with the Board (copies on file). The parade route will be the same as in previous years, stepping off at the old fire station at the corner of Rt. 20 and Rt. 148 at 9:25 a.m. He announced that there will be a dedication ceremony for the new flag pole in honor of Past Commander Rosario Chamberland at the Champeau-Vilandre American Legion Post on May 21st at 3:00 p.m. As a special part of the dedication, the first American flag to be flown on this pole will be an American flag that has flown in Iraq by his grandson, Pvt. Brian Chamberland, currently serving with the 101st Airborne Division.

Department Head Monthly Reports

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Fire Chief Leonard Senecal read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that the Fire Dept. has been working on forest fire preparedness. Regarding firefighter Robert Wright's Injured on Duty status, he is expected to return to work on June 12th. He noted that firefighter David Peterkin hurt his back over the weekend.

Chief Senecal said that he would apply for the Division of Conservation Resources Grant for forest fire fighting equipment to replace the pump on the forest fire truck and purchase some additional hose and other equipment.

MOTION: To approve the use of \$2,000 from the Town Administrator's Matching Grant Account #11232-58000 for the purpose of a DCR Grant for the Fire Department, by W. Emrich.

2nd: H. White.

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the Injured on Duty claim of David Peterkin under MGL Ch. 41, §111F for an injury sustained on duty on May 13, 2006, by W. Emrich.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Chief Senecal said that the Sturbridge Fire Dept. responded to the Auburn brush fire, and sent two units to assist in putting out the fire. J. Malloy said that he had spoken with a Captain from another Fire Dept., who gave Chief Senecal a high compliment for his command at the fire.

Chief Senecal informed the Board that a committee has been set up for the purpose of obtaining the Jaws of Life equipment. They are considering three different vendors.

Chief Senecal said that they have set up a search committee for a paramedic level for the Fire Department. J. Malloy suggested expanding the committee to include himself, the Finance Director and a member of the Finance Committee.

Regarding carbon monoxide detectors, Chief Senecal said that most people have been taking the initiative to install C.O. detectors in their homes. He is looking into grant funding to help the elderly in purchasing C.O. detectors.

J. Malloy noted that there are some radio frequency dead spots in town. He said that one of the antennas for the public safety radio communication system is on a tower in Southbridge, and the Town of Southbridge expects the Town of Sturbridge to pay half of the cost of maintaining the road leading through Westville. J. Malloy said that he would consider alternatives to work around the situation. He noted that the Town of Sturbridge often goes to Southbridge for mutual aid, so it is in their best interest to have the antenna on their tower to

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ensure that our radios will work during mutual aid calls. He suggested looking into using the water tower on Fiske Hill.

Harold Nichols, Building Inspector, read his report to the Board (copy on file). He noted that there was a zoning issue on Cricket Drive and McGilpin Road that Town Counsel is working on, and another zoning issue on Podunk Road involving the boarding of horses.

A.Wilson asked whether he would be able to report on the number of homes that are on water and sewer and how many are on septic systems, using the new software. J. Malloy said that the information could be provided, along with the status of any property in the permitting process. He said that the software is a prepackaged system that works with the Assessors office software.

Greg Morse, DPW Director, read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that the street sweeping program is 65% complete. The post on a tennis net at the tennis court was repaired by re-welding.

A.Wilson asked about the status of the drainage improvements on Stallion Hill Road. G. Morse said that during the course of the winter they noticed that there had been settlement, so they put some stone in the sinkhole, but it came back again. He noted that there is some separation 12 inches from the pipe. He said that after school lets out and the buses stop running, they will resume work at the site.

John Zafiris, Stallion Hill Road, expressed appreciation for the Board's interest in the problems at his property. He asked for detailed plans for the road. G. Morse said that they will put in two drainage crossings below Mallard's. J. Zafiris asked about the possibility of getting an easement for another culvert, and expressed concern about what had happened to his property and what was going to be done to prevent another flooding problem. He requested the opportunity to address the Board again before any final decisions are made. The Board agreed.

H. White asked about the status of the presentation on Route 131. J. Malloy said that he could contact Peter Donahue of Parsons to find out the status of their work.

Roy Wood, Veolia Water North America, read his report to the Board (copy on file). He said that three people have left, but two of the positions have been filled. Chuck Everson will be transferred back to Sturbridge. R. Wood assured the Board that the Town has received excellent service over the last two months. He submitted to the Board two graphs (copies on file) on flow data over the last five years. He said that there was a water main break in March on the main line going into the Galileo industrial park. He reported that they upgraded the chemical feed systems at Well #1, which will be in use this summer.

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J. Malloy said that he was going to meet with Roy Wood and Greg Morse on May 16th to discuss the wastewater treatment plant and staffing issues.

Old Sturbridge Village – Change of Manager on Liquor License

MOTION: To approve the Change of Manager for Old Sturbridge Village, naming Debra Friedman as the Manager of Record, by H. White.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

Underground Propane Tank

Ken Bailey of Osterman Gas appeared before the Board with an application for underground storage tanks totaling 6,000 gallons to be installed Crescent Way, Sturbridge.

MOTION: To accept the plan as presented dated May 16, 2006, by S. Halterman.

2nd: T. Goodwin

Vote: All in favor.

Budgets

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a summary spreadsheet of revenues, expenditures, free cash, estimated new growth, etc. Based upon current figures, the Town is approximately \$150,000 under Proposition 2 ½ using free cash to fill the revenue gap. He said that although the Senate Ch. 70 figure is approximately \$60,000 lower than the figure approved by the House, the Town will be able to absorb this and remain under the Proposition 2 ½ limit. J. Malloy did not think that there will be a need to seek an override this year; however, the Town is using free cash to fill the gap between revenues available and revenues needed to balance the budget, which needs to be addressed during the next fiscal year.

MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #2: To consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; 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; and to reconvene in open session, by T. Goodwin.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

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The Board convened in executive session at 8:05 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 10:15 p.m.

Land Issues

227 Podunk Road – The property is in Chapter 61A and Attorney Paul Kolesnikovas requested that it be removed from that status, giving the Town the right of first refusal. Both the Conservation Commission and the Community Preservation Committee had reviewed this parcel and determined that they are not interested in having the Town pursue the property.

MOTION: That the Town not exercise its right of first refusal on 227 Podunk Road, by H. White.

2nd: W. Emrich

Vote: All in favor.

VanDernoot Land Donation – J. Malloy was approached by Mr. VanDernoot, who was interested in donating several acres of his property to the Town. The property is between the Opacum Wood property and the Mass. Turnpike and has no access. The Opacum Land Trust had looked at purchasing this property in 2003 but did not, due to a title issue involving potential missing heirs. J. Malloy submitted to the Board a memo from Carol Childress of Opacum (copy on file) dated April 13, 2006. He noted that as a donation, there isn't the same concern over the title issues, and C. Childress suggested that it would be a good parcel to obtain if there were no costs associated. He said that although it requires town meeting approval for the Town to accept land donations, the Conservation Commission can accept land with the approval of the Selectmen.

A.Wilson asked whether it had been appraised. J. Malloy said that he would find out, and will contact the Conservation Commission to see if they are interested in going through that process. H. White suggested that the Opacum Land Trust may have some information that is relevant.

Old Business

H. White asked about the status of landscaping on Cedar Street and Rt. 20. J. Malloy said that Tom Chamberland thought he needed approval from the Board; he will go ahead with it.

H. White asked about the status of the Planning Board vacancy. J. Malloy said that it will be filled shortly. It has been advertised, but there has been very little interest.

A.Wilson asked the Board to review the liaison assignments, and to let him know if there are any problems with it.

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New Business

W. Emrich said that the Burgess Building Committee finalized the statement of interest to go to the school building authority.

MOTION: That the Board approve the FY07 salary for the Town Administrator at \$105,000 as appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting, by A. Wilson.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

A.Wilson noted that in the Dialogue for the Future, there were some goals for the Board of Selectmen.

Ask the Selectmen

There were no calls.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet on Monday, May 22nd.

MOTION: To adjourn, by H. White.

2nd: T. Goodwin

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date