

October 11, 2011

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 11, 2011**

Present: Thomas Creamer, Chairman  
Mary Dowling  
Mary Blanchard  
Priscilla Gimas  
Angeline Ellison  
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator

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

**Designation of Polling Place**

A. Ellison arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Lorraine Murawski, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board. She stressed the need for the Town to provide secure storage for voting equipment. She discussed the visit from Bridget Simmons, who found that the Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village was suitable for elections. She said that it would be one of the nicest polling locations in the state.

S. Suhoski's report to the Board included a copy of correspondence from Bridget Simmons, an Elections Specialist with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office, indicating that the proposed polling location in the Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village is "fully compliant with the regulations governing accessibility of polling places" and that the location "can well accommodate Sturbridge's three new precincts effective December 31, 2011." He confirmed with Jim Donahue that OSV will provide the polling location free of charge to the Town as a civic gesture. He noted that the advantages of this location are:

- All three precincts can be accommodated at one location
- A sufficient supply of parking is available
- Location is centrally located and is known to local residents
- All election dates and the evenings prior thereto are available (to allow timely set-up and logistics)
- Traffic controls exist at the intersection of Route 20 to allow managed ingress and egress

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen designate the Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, as the Town's official polling location for all elections effective December 31, 2011, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Ellison**

**Vote: Four in favor (one absent)**

**Public Hearing: New Liquor License and Common Victualler License for K&J Catering LLC d/b/a Veritas Restaurant**

Kurt and Kelly Soukup appeared before the Board. The legal ad was read into the record.

P. Gimmas arrived at 6:45 p.m.

K&J Catering LLC, owned and managed by Kelly Soukup, requested a new All Alcohol Liquor License and Common Victualler license for a proposed American fare restaurant located at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, doing business as Veritas Restaurant. Kelly Soukup would be the manager of the premises, and her husband, Kurt Soukup, would also work at the establishment. The applicant listed hours of operation from 3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

**MOTION: To close the public hearing, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimmas**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve a new Restaurant, All Alcohol Liquor License and Common Victualler License to K&J Catering LLC d/b/a Veritas Restaurant for 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, in accordance with the application materials originally dated September 18, 2011, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimmas**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Department Head Monthly Reports**

Police Chief Thomas Ford reviewed his report with the Board. He listed various events and awards for the Police Department.

Fire Chief Leonard Senecal reviewed his report with the Board. He reviewed the tornado summary report.

David Lindberg, Building Inspector, reviewed his report with the Board. He reviewed permit fees and department activities.

Greg Morse, DPW Director, reviewed his report with the Board.

Shane Moody, Veolia Water North America, reviewed his report with the Board. He discussed fluoridation, a Board of Health mandate.

## **Town Administrator's Update**

### **Farquhar Road Drainage:**

S. Suhoski provided a sketch to the Board which was prepared by the DPW Director, outlining two approaches to improve drainage conditions in the area of 37, 39 and 43 Farquhar Road. At the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting it was determined that the DPW Director would further advance the options and pricing and set an additional meeting with the residents. S. Suhoski, P. Gimás and Greg Morse met with the three affected residents to outline the options.

**Option 1:** Replaces existing 15" drain pipe with an 18" drain in the same location, together with a new outlet through the driveway at 43 Farquhar. Estimated cost for materials: \$5,500+/-.

**Option 2:** Install new 18" pipe further southerly within the properties with new drain inlet and catch basin on Blueberry Lane. This requires additional materials and a cut into Blueberry Lane. Also, this option will require the old drain pipe to be discontinued. If there are unknown foundation or other drains connected into the old pipe, there could be unknown consequences. Estimated cost for materials: \$8,200 +/- plus unknown blasting if needed.

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen authorize Option #2 for the drainage improvements for Farquhar Road and Blueberry Lane, as outlined by the DPW Director, subject to homeowner acceptance and execution of any required easements or waivers recommended by Town Counsel, by P. Gimás.

2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Ellison

**Vote:** Four in favor; M. Blanchard opposed.

### **MIIA Health Benefits Trust – ERRP Election**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board correspondence from MIIA outlining reimbursements through the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP) that are attributable to Sturbridge's membership. This reimbursement to date totals \$106,789 which must be allocated back to the Town and its employees in the same ratio as health insurance premiums are allocated. In this case, as noted on the spreadsheet prepared by the Finance Director, a total of \$64,075.32 would reduce the town's FY13 rates while \$42,713.76 would be applied to reduce the premium contribution of Town employees that participate in the benefit.

S. Suhoski and the Finance Director both recommend utilizing Option 3 to reduce working rates for the next health insurance plan year. He requested that the Board of Selectmen execute a stipulation that the ERRP reimbursement will be shared between the Town and its health insurance subscribers in accordance with the usual contribution ratio (Town = 60%; Employee = 40%).

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen endorse Option 3 for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program and execute the stipulation that the reduced working rates be shared between the Town and health insurance subscribers in accordance with the contribution ratio, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** P. Gimas

**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Operation Re-Leaf**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board information on "Operation Re-Leaf," an enhanced tree re-planting program scheduled for the spring of 2012. In response to the devastation of the tornado, he had requested a meeting with the Tree Warden, Town Planner and a representative of the TWAC to proactively coordinate efforts to re-vegetate impacted areas of Town. The result: "Operation Re-Leaf." He said that the program builds upon the efforts of the Tree Warden and TWAC which have organized volunteers and resources to plant over 80 trees in the past two years.

S. Suhoski said that the FY12 approval of \$4,500 in Betterment Committee funds for tree planting, together with an expected state commitment of \$10,000 in further assistance due to the tornado, has allowed the Town to take an aggressive and vigorous approach towards re-greening the community.

S. Suhoski said that members of the Board have assisted by passing along the application materials to the sector coordinators so that the planning can begin. He noted that the program is open to the entire community. More information is available through:

- Tom Chamberland, Tree Warden at [tchamberland@town.sturbridge.ma.us](mailto:tchamberland@town.sturbridge.ma.us) (508-347-2044 ext. 2), or
- Joe Kowalski, Deputy Tree Warden at [joseph@ganeshtree.com](mailto:joseph@ganeshtree.com) (508-347-5001).

S. Suhoski expressed appreciation to Tom Chamberland, Joe Kowalski and the TWAC for coordinating and leading this effort.

### **Community Development Advisory Committee Appointments**

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointments of the following persons to the ad-hoc Community Development Advisory Committee: David Petrin and Sandra Cole (both residents of target area), by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** P. Gimas

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION:** And further to designate the following Board of Selectmen Designees to the Community Development Advisory Committee: T. Creamer and M. Blanchard, by P. Gimas.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** T. Creamer

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Trails Committee Appointments**

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's re-appointment of Pat McGarrah to the Trails Committee for a five-year term expiring in 2016, and to ratify the Town Administrator's re-appointment of Louie Berthiaume as an Associate Member of the Trails Committee for a term expiring in 2016, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** P. Gimas

**Vote: All in favor**

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of David Vadenais as an Associate Member of the Trails Committee to fill the unexpired term of Pamela Hoy through 2015, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** P. Gimas

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Old Business**

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Road Program. S. Suhoski said that it was in progress.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of Holland Road. S. Suhoski said that an invoice had been issued to the owner.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the clothing bins. S. Suhoski said that a draft was with the Town Planner and Building Inspector.

M. Dowling said that regarding conservation restrictions, staff was working on it and needed time to resolve it. She suggested using Town Counsel's advice in conjunction with Erin Jacques' input.

### **New Business**

M. Blanchard noted that there were numerous sets of minutes that were still outstanding. It was the consensus of the Board to instruct Judy Knowles to

prepare the minutes of the most recent meetings first, then the older ones, and to reduce the amount of detail.

M. Dowling asked about having light refreshments at Town Meeting, perhaps to be provided by the National Honor Society or other school group or the Town, as per a request of a resident.

M. Dowling asked whether A. Ellison should be allowed to vote on articles she requested.

### **Ask the Selectmen/Citizens' Forum**

Mr. Brousseau phoned in regarding water on Route 131 near the Southbridge line.

**MOTION:** To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph #1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; not to reconvene in open session, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimás**

**Roll call vote: M. Blanchard in favor; P. Gimás in favor; A. Ellison in favor; T. Cremer in favor; M. Dowling in favor.**

Respectfully submitted

## Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_