

February 21, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

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

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

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

Blackboard Connect

Following completion of a live test of the Blackboard Connect product that allows emergency communication to residents across a variety of platforms including telephone, cellular, email, text and even social networking sites, S. Suhoski included the annual cost in the FY13 Police Dept. budget. He said that if supported by the Board, he will seek a reserve fund transfer from the Finance Committee to implement this vital communication tool in the immediate future.

Cost March 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012: \$2,652.71
Cost July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013: \$8,037.50

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen vote to support a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$2,652.71 to implement the Blackboard Connect emergency communications program effective on or about March 1, 2012, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; A. Ellison opposed.

Application for Amendment Fuel Storage License – Omer Akisik d/b/a Bee Zee Gas, 149 Charlton Road, Sturbridge:

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a copy of the application to amend the fuel storage license under MGL c. 148 §13 issued to Omer Akisik, of 51 Rambling Road, Sudbury, MA. The subject property is Bee Zee Gas, 149 Charlton Road, which is located roughly across from the entrance to Hobbs Brook (these licenses run in favor of the land owner, not the business entity on the site).

S. Suhoski said that this application will modify fuel storage by eliminating the two above-ground storage tanks located to the right of the building in favor of two 20,000

gallon doublewalled fiberglass underground storage tanks (USTs) to be located under the pavement to the right of the fuel islands.

The project is part of a larger renovation of the fuel facility which will soon participate in the Stop & Shop Supermarkets gasoline rewards program. The project includes many site and aesthetic improvements that were stipulated through the wetland and site plan review process by the Planning Board.

Fire Chief Leonard Senecal has reviewed the application and endorsed same effective on January 19, 2012. The applicant has provided evidence of abutter notification and the engineer from Vanasse Hagen Brustlin, Inc. was present tonight to overview the project.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue the hearing to February 27, 2012 at 6:32 p.m.

Stallion Hill Forest Cutting Plan

Working in concert with the Conservation Agent and Conservation Commission, the contract for clearing the Stallion Hill property has been awarded to David Jepson of Spencer. The approved forest cutting plan was provided in the Board's packets over the weekend. S. Suhoski received the green cards and newspaper notification as well as the road surety bond. David Barnicle, ConsCom Chairman, was present for any questions. S. Suhoski noted that this represents the last of the tornado debris contracts relative to debris on Town-owned land.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve the forest cutting plan approved by the Commonwealth on January 31, 2012 for the Town of Sturbridge property off Stallion Hill Road. Hours of operation: Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to Noon, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Reports

Melissa Beauchemin, Council on Aging Director, reviewed her report with the Board. She reviewed the Council on Aging events. P. Gimas discussed the bus routes for seniors for the Annual Town Meeting via RRI.

Police Chief Thomas Ford reviewed his report with the Board.

MOTION: To grant permission to Steve Hall for the 7th Annual Road Race/Walk to benefit melanoma on May 26, 2012 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Fire Chief Leonard Senecal reviewed his report with the Board.

David Lindberg, Building Inspector, reviewed his report with the Board. He discussed the workshop to be held on March 2, 2012 with DORR.

Greg Morse, DPW Director, reviewed his report with the Board. M. Blanchard suggested putting the brush burning season up on the Town's website.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding noise at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. G. Morse discussed the new noise reduction approach.

Shane Moody, Veolia Water North America, reviewed his report with the Board. He noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been running well. He also said that Well #4 is online.

Quaboag-Quacumquasit Lake Association – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Peter Levine and Don Taft of the Quaboag-Quacumquasit Lake Association appeared before the Board to discuss NPDES permitting for the Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Board directed the Town Administrator to outreach to Spencer. S. Suhoski will initiate meetings or discussions with them.

Bob Briere – Honor Roll

Bob Briere appeared before the Board to discuss the Honor Roll monument for the front of Town Hall. He indicated that \$9,800 is still needed for the project. He said that they hope to break ground on April 2nd at 10:00 a.m., and to dedicate the monument on Memorial Day.

Town Administrator's Goals

Based upon comments at the last meeting, S. Suhoski submitted in the Board's packets a revised draft "Calendar Year 2012 Workplan" for the Board's review.

S. Suhoski noted that a concise statement of the joint priorities of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator lends substantial weight towards ensuring subordinate participation and ultimate achievement. He requested that the Board adopt the Workplan priorities. This document could then become the "goals" document, or, at least the basis for development of goals that run parallel to the Workplan priorities.

T. Creamer stated that the goals in his view included too many items that were day-to-day responsibilities of the Town Administrator or items that were directed by the Town Charter. As such, he felt that those items did not belong as part of goals for the Town Administrator, as it gave the appearance that the Board was merely asking him to fulfill

his responsibilities as outlined in the Town Charter. He felt that the Board should closely review what was submitted and juxtapose it against the responsibilities outlined in the Town Charter, and to consider that the goals should be established utilizing the S.M.A.R.T. approach to goal setting, which means they should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-based.

It was the consensus of the Board to defer further discussion on the Town Administrator's goals to the first meeting in March.

Storm Related Vegetative Debris Removal

S. Suhoski noted that at the last meeting the contract for the two debris piles (Rt. 15 and Rt. 20) was awarded to Mayer Tree Service. He reported that the contract was initiated the very next day, and operations began just two days after the meeting. As of this date, all of the grinding has been completed on Route 15 and the removal of the grindings is now in process. Grinding has commenced on Route 20 and should be complete by the end of this week. Final cleanup will follow removal of the grindings.

Miscellaneous Items

Following are some concise updates on other matters that are pending (most items remain as reported last week):

- **FY13 Budget:** The budget books were distributed Friday early evening. The documents are also being placed online on the Web page for public review. S. Suhoski's budget message outlined the theme of renewal in a balanced \$26.65 million plan that will be discussed at Saturday's budget meeting.
- **Mountain Brook Private Road Association:** The MBPRA has their private engineer developing initial price estimates and approaches for further review by Town staff. Also, they have requested information on how a "betterment" process might be utilized to fund the work over time. S. Suhoski is researching this option and will share that information with the Board (and the residents) once completed.
- **Riverlands Environmental:** (from Tighe & Bond): *"Additional drilling activities were completed on February 6, 7 and 8. The focus of drilling on February 6 and 7 was the former "drum dump area". Twelve soil borings were advanced to depths of up to 15 feet below grade and samples were field screened for evidence of contamination. Three of the soil borings were converted into groundwater monitoring wells. Additionally, 12 soil samples were submitted for analysis. I expect soil sample results towards the end of next week. We had to mobilize to the site for an additional half-day on February 8 to finish drilling and to GPS soil boring and monitoring well locations. At this point we need to conduct groundwater sampling of newly installed monitoring wells, but will wait until soil sampling results are back. I don't expect there to be anything in the soil data that causes us to rethink the sampling program, but always like to have all available information before making a final decision."*

- **AAB Variance Update:** The Contractor returned to Town Hall to take further measurements. S. Suhoski is hopeful that installation will occur within the next two weeks to close-out this item.
- **Walker Road Improvements:** (no change) CME is near completion of an initial plan, profile and cross-sections and expects to share preliminary drawings with Town staff by the end of February. After any further revisions required by Town officials, the draft plans will be shared with the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Director, and S. Suhoski will seek a follow-up meeting with the residents of the road.
- **Walker Pond Drainage:** (no change) DPW Director has made contact with Tighe & Bond with respect to proper pipe sizing for an existing, failed culvert that requires replacement at the corner of Falls Road and Wells Park Road. S. Suhoski was advised that this information will be forthcoming by the end of February.
- **Route 15 Wastewater/Water:** Construction and design cost estimates for various water service options along Route 15 are near completion by Tighe & Bond. The Board had requested a look at the draft report which S. Suhoski will email to the Board.
- **Other Meetings / Miscellaneous:** S. Suhoski met with Town Planner and reporter regarding economic development initiatives; meeting with Police Chief re: personnel/collective bargaining matters; conducted test of BlackBoard Connect program with Police Chief; meetings with Finance Director re: budget preparation; attended regional town administrator's luncheon; finalized budget message and FY13 budget book.

Correspondence

M. Blanchard read the correspondence list into the record.

Old Business

M. Blanchard asked whether Pizzeria Uno had appealed their one-day liquor license suspension. S. Suhoski said that he does not believe that they did, and that they have scheduled the closing through the Police Chief.

M. Blanchard asked about Capital and Betterment Committee status. S. Suhoski said that the committees will soon meet to make recommendations.

P. Gimaz spoke to the change in meeting date for the Tantasqua Regional School Committee to February 29th.

T. Creamer asked about the General Bylaw for regulating clothing bins. S. Suhoski said that the bylaw will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for Board of Selectmen review.

T. Creamer said that it would be helpful if the Town was able to “soften” any increase to water or sewer rates.

New Business

M. Dowling said that there is a petition being circulated to revoke the Community Preservation Act, and that she remains in favor of retaining the CPA. She requested that the Board take a formal position, and stated that she will present a motion at the next meeting seeking the Board’s support. T. Creamer said that he does not support revocation of the CPA, and said that people should look at the Annual Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting where the projects were approved. A. Ellison supports the CPA; M. Dowling supports the CPA; P. Gimás supports the CPA; M. Blanchard supports the CPA, and suggested checking with the schools for names.

Ask the Selectmen/Citizens’ Forum

There were no calls.

MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimás
Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date