

April 10, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2012**

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

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

April as Donate Life Month

Ms. Robin Lataille, of Orchard Road in Sturbridge, appeared before the Board. She had come into S. Suhoski's office to discuss April as "National Donate Life Month." She is the recipient of an organ transplant herself and participates as a swimmer in the "Transplant Games." She is interested in raising awareness to have folks become registered organ and tissue donors. Judy Knowles prepared a proclamation for the Board's signatures.

MOTION: To issue a proclamation declaring April 2012 as Donate Life Month in Sturbridge, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Water Abatement Request

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board an abatement request and his letter of denial. He said that the consumer believes the single quarter of high usage is an anomaly.

Diane Ward and Emily Bergeron appeared before the Board. D. Ward said that she has lived alone for the past four years, owns two small dogs, and does not use much water.

M. Dowling noted that this is a one-time event with a bill six times higher, and the Town cannot explain fully, because meters can malfunction. She said that if the problem arises again, the meter should be replaced.

T. Creamer said that abatement is warranted, due to an anomaly and other reasons.

M. Blanchard suggested working out a payment plan.

MOTION: To abate 50% of Diane Ward's bill (\$550.91), by M. Dowling.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Blanchard opposed.

Bob Briere – Veterans Honor Roll

Bob Briere requested the Board's support for the bronze plaque on the Honor Roll for the Revolutionary War veterans.

MOTION: That the Board support the bronze plaque for Revolutionary War veterans on the new Honor Roll, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Board Reorganization

The Board welcomed their new member, Mary Redetzke, and nominated officers.

M. Dowling said that it would be helpful to shake up the leadership from time to time to see how the Town Administrator's leadership would evolve with a different chairman.

MOTION: To nominate Priscilla Gimas as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mary Blanchard as Vice-Chairman and T. Creamer as Clerk, by M. Dowling.

P. Gimas said that she could not accept the Chairmanship due to her work schedule. M. Blanchard said that she would not accept either. The nomination was withdrawn.

MOTION: To nominate Thomas Creamer as Chairman, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling and M. Blanchard opposed.

MOTION: To nominate P. Gimas as Vice-Chairman, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To nominate Mary Blanchard as Clerk, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: All in favor.

Board of Registrars

MOTION: To appoint Sue Murphy to the Board of Registrars, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke abstained.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

On April 2, the Board called a Special Town Meeting for just after the Annual Meeting and opened the warrant. S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a draft STM warrant with three articles. He noted that the final language was being reviewed by Town Counsel. The articles were:

- Transfer \$55,000 from free cash to landfill leachate removal
- Transfer up to \$350,000 from tornado-related expenses back to free cash, and
- Transfer \$15,000 within the FY12 Sturbridge Tourist Association budget

Article 67: Transfer to Free Cash

MOTION: To place and support Article 67, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: All in favor.

Article 68: Re-allocation of Funds – Sturbridge Tourist Association

MOTION: To place and support Article 68, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

Article 69: Sturbridge Police Association Contract

MOTION: To place and support Article 69, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To close the Special Town Meeting warrant for June 4, 2012, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

Senior Municipal Service Program – Final Applicant

S. Suhoski informed the Board that Janet Rae-Sinanian, of River Road, has been qualified as the final participant for the Fiscal Year 2013 tax period due to the March 31 closing date. She would fill slot 27 of 30 total abatements for the program. Her assistance has been requested at the Council on Aging.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve Janet Rae-Sinanian to the Senior Municipal Service Program to be assigned to the Council on Aging, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

Note that Department Heads tallied all hours through March 31 and any remaining hours may now be allocated amongst the approved participants.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

S. Suhoski asked the Board to look at proposed changes to Article 5 (Community Preservation Act) and Article 12 (Betterment Committee).

S. Suhoski reminded the Board that the Planning Board meets on April 10 to determine the status of the roadway acceptance articles. Thereafter, the Board of Selectmen would vote its "intent" to "lay out" the roadways during a public meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting, and conduct a public hearing and formal vote to lay out the roadways and file the official plan with the Town Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: To reopen the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Article 5: Community Preservation Administration

MOTION: To place and support Article 5, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Article 7: Sewer Department

MOTION: To add \$186,798 to Article 7 under Debt Service with funds to come from sewer fund balance, for a new total of \$2,119,415, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Article 12: Betterment Committee

MOTION: To place and support Article 12, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke opposed.

Article 14: Capital Improvement Plant

MOTION: To support Article 14, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Two in favor; P. Gimas, T. Creamer & M. Redetzke opposed.

Article 26A: Amend Regional School District Agreement

MOTION: To reconsider Article 26A, by T. Creamer.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To remove Article 26A from the warrant, by T. Creamer.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June 4, 2012, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

FY13 Operating Budget

S. Suhoski noted that the Board has nearly completed its work on the FY13 budget with the exception of line items 104 and 106 related to roadway reconstruction and maintenance. The Finance Director will provide the exact “surplus” available to the Board for allocation. Administration and Finance staff recommended that the surplus (estimated to be about \$196,000 be considered for:

- Road Maintenance/Construction
- Reserve Fund, or
- Stabilization Fund

The Board revised the Sewer Department budget and fund contribution.

Miscellaneous Items

S. Suhoski’s focus has remained on the ATM Warrant and finalizing the budget recommendations. Following are updates on other ongoing matters:

- **WWTP Noise Concerns:** Received email from project engineer that the noise mitigation system approved by the Board has been substantially installed. The DPW Director reported an immediate reduction in noticeable sound.
- **Mountain Brook Private Road Association:** Further to the Board’s direction, additional research and reporting is being initiated. S. Suhoski received late this week additional information from Town Counsel which he will review and share.
- **Riverlands Environmental:** (no change – in process) As reported previously, the groundwater sampling will be conducted this week with the final report and findings/recommendations anticipated by the first week in May. It is hoped that large portions of the site will be deemed “clear” and that any mitigation will be focused to specific areas.
- **Insurance Advisory Committee:** S. Suhoski conducted initial discussion with collective bargaining representatives, non-union personnel, retiree representatives concerning the status of the Town’s insurance plan offerings and potential modifications. Plan is to have follow-up meeting on Monday, April 23.
- **Walker Road Improvements:** CME and the DPW Director field-walked and staked Walker Road to review potential impacts of a 21-foot wide ROW versus an 18-foot

ROW. The draft plans will be shared with residents within the next 14 days for comment before bringing the matter back before the Board.

- **Walker Pond Drainage:** (no change) Dave Prickett of Tighe & Bond submitted a revised technical memorandum. It will be reviewed by S. Suhoski and the DPW Director next week so that they will be prepared for discussion with the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- **Route 15 Wastewater/Water:** (no change) The report was emailed to the Board last week. Tighe & Bond can undertake additional work seeking USDA or other grants at a separate cost.
- **Other Meetings / Miscellaneous:** Participated in Veterans Honor Roll ceremony; extensive telephone conference with Energy Advisory Committee chairman and Town Counsel re: solar documents; met with Finance Director and TRSD IT Director regarding IT planning; attended Finance Committee meeting; Convened follow-up meetings of Capital Planning and Betterment committees; attended CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee meeting (elected Vice-Chairman); met with Veterans Agent, former agent and representative of American Legion re: Memorial Day activities and other matters; met with Conservation Agent and Chairman of ConsCom re: private road drainage matter; conducted site visit with Conservation Agent to Stallion Hill Conservation area forest cutting program (final tornado-related cleanup); met with HVAC vendor regarding outstanding issues and repairs.

Correspondence

M. Blanchard read the correspondence list into the record.

Old Business

M. Blanchard asked whether the Town was still utilizing the month-to-month contract with Hampshire Council of Governments for electricity. S. Suhoski said yes, and that the Town is still in a savings mode; however, the recent drop in natural gas pricing may make the National Grid utility more competitive.

T. Creamer reminded the Board to begin work on the Town Administrator's goals and objectives.

T. Creamer noted that the Conservation Commission had provided the Board with written correspondence concerning best management practices for private road issues.

T. Creamer asked the Town Administrator whether a door handle would be installed on the front door of the Center Office Building. S. Suhoski said that it was not part of the renovation plan, and that he would need to get a locksmith to match the key code.

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New Business

M. Blanchard thanked the Town's dispatchers for their professionalism and read a notice concerning National Telecommunicator's Week.

M. Dowling offered congratulations to all newly elected officers of the Town.

MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date