

March 5, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 5, 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.

Public Service Announcements

T. Creamer reminded residents about the upcoming primary, and the new polling location: three precincts, all at Oliver Wight Tavern at Old Sturbridge Village.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet every Monday in March.

BOS Budget Review

S. Suhoski provided the Board with an overview of the budget.

M. Blanchard requested more information regarding the School Resource Officer, and said that Sturbridge should not pay the full cost of the SRO. P. Gimas said that she was in favor of having a School Resource Officer, but that it should be covered by an existing police officer. M. Dowling said that she supported the SRO, and said that it is a necessary position.

M. Dowling said that she was inclined to support the cost of living increase for employees. M. Blanchard said that the COLA request is amenable to 2% for employees, and requested a breakdown of costs, 1% vs. 2%. T. Creamer said that he was opposed to a 2% increase for employees.

T. Creamer requested third party analytical data regarding the Building Department request.

The Board reviewed the budget line by line, and agreed to approve the majority of service and supply lines, but held all salary and wage lines, pending more information on the 2 percent COLA proposed by S. Suhoski, and staffing changes.

MOTION: That the Board approve all line items that were not placed on hold, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Referral of Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments to Planning Board for Hearing and Report

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a February 29, 2012 correspondence from the Planning Board as the petitioner for three modifications to the Town's Zoning Bylaw and Map. He noted that at this point, the Board's statutory role under MGL c. 40A, sec. 5 is to formally refer the proposals to the Planning Board to enable their public hearing and report process to occur timely for the Annual Town Meeting. The proposed changes are for Chapter 13, the Historic-Commercial District (running roughly from the Post Office past Town Hall and the Town Common areas).

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen refer the proposed amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw identified in correspondence from the Planning Board dated February 29, 2012, to the Planning Board for hearing and report under MGL c. 40A, sec. 5, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Burgess School Land Swap

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a copy of the email from Town Counsel together with three documents associated with the land swap for the Burgess School project, namely, (1) deed from the Town to Om Shri Uma Bhavani LLC, (2) deed from Om Shri Uma Bhavani LLC to the Town (for Board of Selectmen acceptance), and (3) the title insurance affidavit for the Town's parcel to be conveyed.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen execute the following documents to effectuate the "land swap" as approved by Article 30 of the September 2, 2011 Special Town Meeting: (1) deed from the Town to Om Shri Uma Bhavani LLC, (2) Acceptance of deed from Om Shri Uma Bhavani LLC to the Town, and (3) the title insurance affidavit for the Town parcel to be conveyed, all parcels as identified on plan entitled "Approval Not Required Land Swap Plan," dated September 14, 2011, and prepared by The Berkshire Design Group, Inc., by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Storm Related Vegetative Debris Removal

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S. Suhoski informed the Board that the Route 15 site has been cleared of debris, while the Route 20 site is completed chipped and at roughly 35% removal. Upon completion of the debris removal the contractor will clean-up the sites to DPW's satisfaction.

Miscellaneous Items

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

- **FY13 Budget:** Before Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen for their respective recommendations.
- **Mountain Brook Private Road Association:** The MBPRA is scheduled to meet with S. Suhoski to discuss the project budgets and financing options.
- **Riverlands Environmental:** The Town is awaiting results and recommendations from the additional drilling and sampling activities from early February which are expected in the near future.
- **AAB Variance Update:** The Contractor has advised that the railings have been fabricated, galvanized and powder-coated (black). The installation will occur when weather conditions allow successive days of good weather and appropriate temperatures.
- **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:** Dave Prickett of Tighe & Bond has advised that they have a bit more work to do to finalize next steps and recommendations. He indicated a report would be forthcoming this month.
- **Route 15 Wastewater/Water:** 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:** S. Suhoski met with Bob Briere to discuss materials costs and potential assistance for Honor Roll; met with Energy Advisory Committee to frame up action items and next steps for solar power negotiations; met (separately) with three individual members of Finance Committee relative to various information requests; met with Finance Director re: budgets; met with

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DPW Director re: various items; met with Town Planner re: potential warrant articles.

Correspondence

M. Blanchard read the correspondence into the record.

The Public Lands Advisory Committee had requested the removal of the Board of Selectmen representative and Conservation Commission representative from their committee.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen restructure the PLAC by removing the representatives of the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission, to be replaced by two residents at large, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

P. Gimas said that she had received an email from Don Miller; she rebutted the email concerning the CPA impact in Northampton. She spoke to the Northampton experience with bond rating, and noted that the CPA helps retain a good rating.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 19, 2011 as amended, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

M. Blanchard asked whether Pizzeria Uno had served their one-day suspension. S. Suhoski said that he believes so, and that it was coordinated with Police Chief Ford, but he will confirm that.

P. Gimas praised local resident Alberto Mercado on his third book and book signing event.

T. Creamer asked whether anyone had been soliciting signatures at the Senior Center. S. Suhoski said that there were signatures being gathered in the parking area, and that the person soliciting same had stepped inside the Senior Center. In response to a phone call from the Council on Aging Director, S. Suhoski went to the Senior Center and advised the party that they could not collect signatures in the building. The Board engaged in discussion and concurred that signatures not be collected inside the Senior Center.

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T. Creamer said that a resident had advised about a Town truck being driven without markings, but with Town plates. S. Suhoski said that it is his understanding that all of the DPW vehicles are marked; for example, the DPW Director's pickup truck is H1. S. Suhoski said that he will confirm.

New Business

T. Creamer reminded residents that lime green cards inserted into their tax bills will include notice of a change in the polling location to Old Sturbridge Village.

T. Creamer reviewed an article concerning the Government Services Study Committee and requested the Board to review it. He said that the Committee would look at departments, overtime, comp time, etc. He will seek Board action at the next meeting.

T. Creamer discussed the use of compensatory time. S. Suhoski said that Town policy allows "flexible" scheduling per approval of the Town Administrator, but that people commonly refer to this (mistakenly) as "comp time." M. Blanchard requested more information on comp time.

MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date