

August 20, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 20, 2012**

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

Mary Redetzke was absent.

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

**Change of Manager: Kahula Restaurant**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board the request for a change of manager for Chung May, Inc. d/b/a Kahula Restaurant, 119 Main Street, Sturbridge. No legal notice or abutter notifications were required for this transaction. S. Suhoski said that the new manager would be May Chan, who is also listed as the sole director of the corporation and lists herself as the owner. The only question that he had relative to the application was whether or not May Chan should have listed a financial interest in the license on the Personal Information Form that currently reads "none." He said that if she is the owner and sole Director of the corporation, she may need to list that affirmatively on the form.

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve a change of manager for Chung May, Inc. d/b/a Kahula Restaurant, 119 Main Street, naming May Chan as Manager, further to application dated August 8, 2012, with the stipulation that a correction be made to "financial interest" for May Chan, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**Shepard Road – Resident Concerns re: Low Wires**

At the last meeting the Board agreed to send a correspondence to Verizon outlining the remaining concerns articulated by neighborhood residents on August 13.

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen execute correspondence to Verizon dated August 20, 2012 relative to utility pole concerns on Shepard Road, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**Riverlands Environmental**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a revised proposal from Tighe & Bond for the next tasks associated with assessment of the Riverlands parcel. He noted that the cost has been reduced by \$505 and split into two tasks: (1) additional soil assessment for the so-called Drum Dump delineation at \$3,495., and, if testing indicates that additional response actions at the site are not necessary, (2) preparation of a Response Action Outcome statement for MassDEP which would remove the site from DEP oversight at a fee of \$3,500 (note: there is also a \$1,200 filing fee that would be due to the Commonwealth).

S. Suhoski initiated the additional testing phase as funds remain available under the \$40,000 escrow associated with the original purchase of the land. The funding for Task #2 will need to be secured and I plan to request consideration by the Community Preservation Committee under their administrative funds after the delineation is complete and next steps are known.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the plan of action.

### **Planning Board Resignation**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a copy of the resignation letter of Brian McSweeney from the Planning Board due to increased obligations in his professional career.

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Brian J. McSweeney from the Planning Board with regret, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

### **Committee Vacancies**

In addition to the new Planning Board vacancy (this would be a nearly five-year appointment), the Town needs help from volunteers on several of its other committees including (copy of advertisement and posting also attached):

- Planning Board
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Conservation Commission (Associate Members)
- Housing Partnership Committee
- Public Lands Advisory Committee
- Historic Commission
- Cultural Council
- Agricultural Commission
- Council on Aging
- Sturbridge Tourist Association
- Energy Advisory Committee

- Finance Committee

T. Creamer suggested an outreach by the Town Administrator to the Recreation Committee, Finance Committee and Planning Board for an appointment – consistent with the General Bylaws – to the Sturbridge Tourist Association, which calls for one total member from one of either of those combined entities..

### **Other Matters**

Following are brief informational updates on other pending matters.

- **Conservation Agent Search:** The Conservation Commission chairman and S. Suhoski have scheduled an additional finalist interview with a promising candidate on Tuesday. The Board will be kept apprised of the outcome.
- **Municipal Buildings:** The HVAC contractor will again return to advise and seek further remedy with respect to an intake unit that appears to be allowing water to seep into the Library. With some of the other building items resolved, the following two items will now advance: (1) screening the HVAC units outside Town Hall and, (2) advancing the Town's final warranty claims for the Town Hall / Center Office Building project to closure (plaster / paint repair on first floor).
- **Insurance Advisory Committee:** S. Suhoski advised the IAC to be prepared to meet in mid-September (when vacation schedules and school start-up shakes out) with our MIIA representative to discuss options to modify the health plan with an eye towards reducing or limiting increases to the premium next fiscal year. They are currently looking at the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> or September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Walker Pond Drainage:** Tighe & Bond is contracted to complete baseline survey in the Wells Park / Falls Road area. The baseline design will ensure correct elevations as phases of the system are developed. As the project develops, S. Suhoski will seek potential grant funds for portions of the work.
- **Route 15 Water:** S. Suhoski removed the "wastewater" portion of the heading as that item was tabled by the Board of Selectmen until such time as the new plant is fully complete and re-rated for capacity. The Economic Development Advisory Committee has been provided an abutters list and will outreach to all potential property owners that would benefit from the improvements to identify their needs and wishes.
- **ZIP TRIP:** Was a rousing success! Thanks to all of the local businesses and residents that appeared on FOX-25, to the Town staff that helped make the operation run smoothly, and the hundreds of citizens that enjoyed Friday morning on the Common ... Sturbridge was a shining star! See shameless picture at end of report.

T. Creamer thanked all of the residents and members of the Board who had attended. P. Gimas commented that S. Suhoski had done a great job, and said that the gift baskets that were given to the anchors were a first class gesture on behalf of the Town. S. Suhoski noted that the gift baskets were prepared by Lynne Girouard, with donations from local businesses.

- **Other Meetings / Miscellaneous:** S. Suhoski resolved tax matter in conjunction with citizen and principal assessor; twice met with new owner of Blackington Building relative to various development issues; conducted additional staff-level abatement reviews; met with DPW, police, fire, recreation and health staff to prepare for “Zip Trip”; attended portion of Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting; participated in Department Head meeting with Government Services Study Committee; convened inter-department task force relative to nuisance and other complaints on Shepard Road; met with police, fire and DPW relative to compliance requirements by 12/31/12 for “narrow band” communications; met with citizen regarding public records file review; attended site visit with code inspectors to distressed property; managed various personnel matter; met with two additional citizen walk-ins for various issues; conducted site visit to damaged culvert on private road along with DPW Director and residents.



FOX-25 Zip Trip: Shannon Mulaire, Gene Lavanchy, Cindy Fitzgibbon, Shaun Suhoski,

P. Gimas said that she had discussed the purpose of the Government Services Study Committee with the department heads, and they had offered good feedback.

### **Correspondence**

M. Blanchard noted the new transportation service from South Central Mass. Elderbus that is available for Sturbridge residents. She noted the Fire Marshall’s decision to

uphold the Board's decision regarding the granting of a fuel storage tank license at 173 Main Street.

### **Old Business**

M. Dowling said that a certified letter had been sent to the Town Administrator on July 24<sup>th</sup> regarding a land matter, and asked if he had responded to it. S. Suhoski said that he did not recall the letter. M. Dowling said that she would forward it to him.

T. Creamer said that he was loath to raise the issue, but felt compelled to address the fact that the Board has received a number of anonymous correspondence over the past few months, which he has no confidence in, as there is no way to validate or verify what is going on. A recent anonymous letter was about a Sturbridge patrol car, and he noted that there is no way to determine the exact circumstances behind the claim without review by the Town Administrator, and he felt it was important to note that anonymous items should be attended little credibility, but he did not know the circumstances behind it. S. Suhoski said that copies of anonymous complaints are given to the Board, but not listed on the correspondence list.

P. Gimas said that she had received an email from Don Miller, who asked about the summer population. She noted that the source of the number of 25,000 summer population was from the Police Department.

M. Blanchard asked if the Town Administrator had received a response to the letter sent to Holland Road residents. S. Suhoski said that they did not respond, so it will be liened on their tax bill.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the proposal from Bob Levite. S. Suhoski said that Bob Levite has been gathering information before doing the formal proposal.

M. Dowling thanked the Board for their indulgence, and said that she plans to have something before the Board regarding the certificate program next week.

P. Gimas asked whether the CDBG meeting was still scheduled for Thursday. S. Suhoski confirmed that it was.

T. Creamer said that two weeks ago a meeting to discuss wastewater alternatives was again canceled by representatives from SRCC. They had sent correspondence to T. Creamer with a list of what they wanted in terms of personnel in attendance and no non-management affiliated residents from SRCC were to be part of the discussion. He wrote back to them on August 14<sup>th</sup> indicating that he will not participate in any discussions relative to wastewater alternatives at SRCC with any group that did not include residents of SRCC as homeowners and stakeholders in the community. He expressed concern about the lack of credible information being provided to the residents of SRCC by some of its management staff, and read two newsletters into the

record that demonstrated what he referenced as a lack of accurate information. He cited the need for accurate information to be provided to residents.

T. Creamer read a letter into the record dated March 2010 regarding the Board's vote concerning sewer on Route 15. He made it clear that the Board's approach was to support the recommendation from Tighe & Bond and had no interest in going outside of those recommendations. He noted that there was no soliciting allowed at SRCC.

### **New Business**

M. Dowling asked whether CPA funding could be used to alleviate wastewater problems under rehabilitation of affordable housing at SRCC. S. Suhoski said that he would look into it. T. Creamer said that the Housing Partnership Committee, Planning Board and state legislators are trying to get mobile homes listed as affordable housing. S. Suhoski said that in CDBG sanitary code improvements are eligible under that, and an application was submitted for the infrastructure based on that. He said that under housing rehabilitation funds, if SRCC continued with their plan for a centralized collection point for septic or treatment facility, CDBG funds could possibly be used to pay for the connections or hookups.

M. Blanchard asked whether notification had been received from CMRPC regarding the delegate for this year. T. Creamer said that he attends the meetings only when there is the need for a vote, such as that to appoint a regional delegate to the TIPPS Committee. S. Suhoski said that he would check to see if any notification had been received.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 5, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 25, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the site visit minutes of July 2, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Three in favor; M. Blanchard abstained; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 2, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 9, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 16, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 23, 2012 as amended, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke absent.**

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

M. Dowling received a call from Ginger Peabody, who asked how many residents had actually asked for extended hours at Town Hall and the Center Office Building, whether all departments would have extended hours, and whether there will be more than one person in a building. G. Peabody suggested trying extended hours one night a month for three months, and to keep track of the number of residents that are actually served during those extended hours. She felt it would be difficult for Town staff to implement it on a weekly basis. T. Creamer said that the Board had voted to implement extended hours on Monday evenings – every Monday -- starting on January 7, 2013, with the schedule and mechanics of it to be decided by the Town Administrator. He further stated that the vote was not for a trial period, but rather for implementation of extended hours on Mondays without exception.

**MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, §21, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; not to reconvene in open session, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Roll call vote: M. Dowling in favor; T. Creamer in favor; P. Gimas in favor; M. Blanchard in favor.**

The Board convened in executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

August 20, 2012

BOS Clerk

Date