

March 26, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 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.

**Syl's Auto Sales – Change of Ownership / Class II License**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the new owner of Syl's Auto Sales, Gabriel Burny, requested a Class II license in his name. He noted that this property was recently reviewed and approved to continue this pre-existing non-conforming use by the Zoning Board.

As part of the new ownership request, and the effort to align the Board of Selectmen licensing with Planning Board Site Plan Approval, Mr. Burny made revisions to his parking and site plans for incorporation into the license. Previously, the license allowed up to 50 vehicles on site; however, following review by the Town Planner, Fire Chief and DPW Director, Mr. Burny has revised his site plan to accommodate 32 total vehicles.

**MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve a Class II license to Gabriel Burny d/b/a Syl's Auto Sales, 99 Main Street, with a maximum of 32 vehicles to be parked on site in accordance with site plan revised March 16, 2012 by Para Land Surveying, Inc., by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Water/Sewer Rate Discussion**

Barbara Barry, Finance Director and Greg Morse, DPW Director were also in attendance. S. Suhoski provided to the Board spreadsheet data indicating what the actual rates would be to fully fund operations, and further to the Board's clear direction to hold rates as low as possible, an alternative rate structure that utilizes Fund Balance to mitigate against increases for the coming fiscal year. In essence, the sewer rate can be held flat, but, the water rate – driven by the Mass. DEP-mandated treatment facility costs – will rise even with Fund Balance contribution.

**Ask the Selectmen/Citizens' Forum**

Chet Jusiak, Sturbridge resident, asked about the effect on the Town if the CPA were revoked. T. Creamer explained that eventually the surcharge will stop, but it could take 20-30 years because any outstanding debt must be paid. He noted that as long as we pay the surcharge, the Town will continue to get the state matching funds. Once the CPA is revoked, the state matching funds will cease; but they don't cease until the debt has been paid. He noted that the state is not required to offer matching funds.

Don Miller said that one thing that was missing was the effective date for the revocation of the CPA. He questioned whether the way it was written meets the quality standards of understandability for residents. T. Creamer offered the Dept. of Revenue's official position on it and read it into the record. He said that the ballot summary was fair and concise.

**BOS Budget Review**

The Board continued its review of the budget. Barbara Barry, Finance Director and William Mitchell, Principal Assessor, appeared before the Board.

**MOTION: That line 8 be reduced to \$8,700 and to release the hold on line 8, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To release the holds on line items 21 and 22, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: Three in favor; T. Creamer and P. Gimas opposed.**

**MOTION: To reduce line 66 to \$1,000 from \$4,200 and to release the hold on line 66, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**It was the consensus of the Board to release the hold on line 75.**

**MOTION: To reduce line 175 from \$280,000 to \$270,000 and release line 175, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

Regarding the School Resource Officer, P. Gimas and M. Dowling advocated funding for the position out of the budget; A. Ellison, M. Blanchard and T. Creamer supported the position, but not to be funded from the Town budget. S. Suhoski will ask the Superintendent of Schools for his position regarding the

SRO, and will ask the Police Chief to provide detailed information in advance of the next meeting.

**MOTION: That the Board support all line items that they had withdrawn from being on hold, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

The DRAFT ATM Warrant was provided to the Board. There were a total of 30 proposed articles, including three citizen petitions and three placeholders for roadway acceptance.

#### **Article 1: Town Reports**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 1, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Article 2: Community Preservation Committee Report**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 2, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Article 3: Town Budget**

It was the consensus of the Board to hold action on this article.

#### **Article 4: Community Preservation Administration**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 4, by M. Blanchard**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Article 7: Sewer Project Debt**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 7, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Article 8: Community Preservation Debt Service**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 8, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Article 10: Sturbridge Tourist Association**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 10, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 13: Capital Raise Article – DPW Dump Truck w/Plow**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 13, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 14: Ambulance Stabilization Fund**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 14, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 15: OPEB Trust Fund**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 15, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 16: Stabilization Fund**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 16, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 18: Tax Rate Relief**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 18, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 22: Acceptance of MGL c. 41, §81U**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 22, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 23: Re-Authorize Lease of Landfill Land – Solar Power Agreement**

**MOTION: To place and support Article 23, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Article 24: Amend Regional School District Agreement**

**MOTION: To place Article 24 on the warrant, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: That the Board not support Article 24 as written, by A. Ellison.**

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

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

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**Article 30: Citizen Petition – Purchase 310 Main Street**

**MOTION:** That the Board not support Article 30, by P. Gimas.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** M. Dowling

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

**Regional Community Innovation Grant Awarded (\$310,000)**

S. Suhoski worked to include Sturbridge in a regional grant application that would provide technical assistance and education concerning the revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements that are being imposed on all cities and town through the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Primarily, these requirements will include mapping of all stormwater outlets / discharge points, public education and more stringent stormwater management controls.

S. Suhoski reported that the 13-town regional collaborative was notified that our application for \$310,000 was funded in the first round of the CIC program. This is great news!

The formal name of our program is “Regionalizing Municipal Stormwater Management in Central Massachusetts through Collaborative Education, Data Management, and Policy Development.” Greg Morse and S. Suhoski will be participating in the effort to bring benefits to the Town. S. Suhoski anticipates more information to be forthcoming after organizational meetings are held in April for the grant recipients.

This program is a tangible example of why S. Suhoski participated in a monthly luncheon with other regional Town Administrators. Also, the part-time Veterans Agent was recruited through this same forum.

**Storm Related Vegetative Debris Removal**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that final cleanup on both Route 15 debris sites (by Days Inn for the tornado, and the old Howard Johnson’s pad for the October snowstorm), and the Route 20 boat ramp site, are now complete. Also, the DPW plans to re-seed the area off Route 15 in the coming weeks.



**Days Inn**

**Howard Johnson Site**

S. Suhoski said that the only remaining debris activity associated with any of the 2011 storms is the forest cutting plan for Stallion Hill Conservation Area, which was recently approved.

Remaining action items for the Town Administrator, Finance Director, Police, Fire and DPW staff are to ensure fulfillment of all documentation needed for FEMA / MEMA reimbursement. In the next few weeks, S. Suhoski will prepare a spreadsheet to be included in the miscellaneous updates below that will track the reimbursements.

**Miscellaneous Items**

Following are some updates on other ongoing matters:

- **Mountain Brook Private Road Association:** Further to the Board's direction, additional research and reporting is being initiated.
- **Riverlands Environmental:** (No change from prior.) As reported previously, the groundwater sampling will be conducted March 29 or 30, 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:** 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 next Monday.
- **Walker Road Improvements:** (No change) CME has completed a draft plan, profile and cross-sections which the DPW Director expects to review in the immediate future. After any revisions required by DPW, the draft plans will be shared with the Board of Selectmen and the residents for further review and comment.
- **Walker Pond Drainage:** (No change) 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:** (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:** Met with Betterment Committee to finalize recommendations; met with Conservation Agent and Dept. of

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Fisheries & Wildlife regarding hazard dams and Hamant Brook restoration plan; met with Finance Director and DPW Director regarding water / sewer budgets and rate recommendations; met with ISO representative and Building Commissioner regarding re-rating of town; met with Chairman of Historic Commission; met with two members of Finance Committee.

**Correspondence**

M. Blanchard read the correspondence list into the record.

**(NOTE TO BOS: The DVD ended before Old/New Business, which explains why this section seems “sketchy.” I did the following from Shaun’s notes.)**

**Old Business**

M. Blanchard: HCOG re. electric.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Roads Program.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Ebenezer Craft statue.

P. Gimas: Sturbridge Hills re. WWTP noise.

P. Gimas: CDBG? Timing?

A. Ellison asked about the cost of the Habitat for Humanity project. S. Suhoski said \$83,000 would come from CPA funding; \$160,000 +/- cost plus materials.

T. Creamer asked about the status of conservation restrictions for the Heins, Riverlands and Shepard parcels.

T. Creamer expressed the need to get back to the Town Administrator goals.

T. Creamer requested the Board’s acceptance of the Government Services Study Committee. M. Blanchard said that she was opposed to the GSSC, as it should be the Town Administrator’s role. M. Dowling agreed with M. Blanchard, and said it was the essence of the Town Administrator’s primary job duties.

**MOTION: To establish a Government Services Study Committee, by T. Creamer.**

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

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

**MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, §21, Paragraph #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or**

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**value of real estate; not to reconvene in open session, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimás**

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

The Board convened in executive session at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date