

January 4, 2013

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2013**

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Veterans Municipal Service Program Regulations

S. Suhoski said that the Senior Municipal Service Program is being well managed by the Board of Assessors Office. He suggested following that template, as it works. He said that Tim Hickey, Veterans' Services Director, will determine whether a veteran is eligible to participate in the Veterans Municipal Service Program.

S. Suhoski noted that the first come, first served method has worked well for the Senior Program. He said that the Veterans Program should be directed to those who need assistance.

Bill Mitchell, Principal Assessor, noted that some people may qualify under both the Veteran and Senior programs. S. Suhoski said that the statute allows qualified persons to participate in both programs. T. Creamer said that if a person is accepted under both programs, which is completely allowable, they can only work so many hours per week based upon their schedules, so any concerns about participation in both programs simultaneously are unfounded. M. Dowling said that the programs were designed to help people who are low income or disabled, and a veteran who doesn't need help would not come forward. S. Suhoski suggested making some adjustments to the Senior Program.

Bill Mitchell said that everyone who is interested in participating will fill out an application, then their limits will be indicated.

It was the consensus of the Board to limit the program to a maximum cost of \$15,000 per year, which shall be charged against the overlay account.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve the Town of Sturbridge Veterans Municipal Service Program Regulations as amended on January 4, 2013, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: All in favor.

T. Creamer thanked M. Blanchard for her efforts in bringing this program forward.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen support Article 35 for the January 7, 2013 Special Town Meeting, and to support exemption #1, not #2, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Article 33: Moratorium on Non-Municipal Solar Facilities

T. Creamer reviewed the Finance Committee's and Planning Board's recommendations. He asked the Board if they would be willing to support a substitute motion. He asked Attorney Joel Bard of Kopelman and Paige that in the event the substitute motion fails, whether the Town would have the right to go forward with this project on its own. J. Bard said no, it would not. His position was to ask the Board if it would support the article as originally written, with the exemptions for the Town included in it.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to write a substitute motion to offer to the Board prior to the Special Town Meeting, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Article 45: Fund Building Department Operations

S. Suhoski reviewed the submission by Curt Meskus, Building Inspector, for 18 hours/week to include direct contact hours with the public and additional time for inspections in the field, and increase the Administrative Assistant's time to 25 hours total per week, for five day coverage in the Building Department, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

T. Creamer said that he would vote against any increase without a substantial study, but noted that this is a unique situation. He believes that the Building Department has become increasingly more productive, and that it has demonstrated concrete needs vs. wants.

Sandy Hook Vigil

P. Gimas announced that the Vigil for the Sandy Hook Victims will be held at Burgess Cafeteria on January 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., with participation by the Fire Department and Police Department, as well as persons of all faiths. The Burgess choir will sing.

Town Administrator's Evaluation

January 4, 2013

S. Suhoski said that he had submitted his input. It was the consensus of the Board to conduct the Town Administrator's evaluation on January 22nd, with Selectmen comments due to the Chairman by January 16th.

MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date