

March 11, 2013

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 11, 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 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

T. Creamer announced that the Board of Selectmen will meet on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:00 a.m. at Veterans' Memorial Hall regarding the pending Planning Board Annual Town Meeting articles requiring action by the Board of Selectmen.

T. Creamer noted the article about Cheryl Reeve in the local newspaper.

M. Redetzke announced the Library Book Sale; and Meet the Selectman on March 14th at 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall, and on March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.

M. Dowling announced the charitable event to be held at the Publick House on March 13th at 4:30 and 6:30 for the Children's Room of the Joshua Hyde Library.

M. Blanchard announced the Burgess Budget Hearing on April 4th at 7:00 p.m.; and the School Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Sewer Abatement Request

Richard Broughton had submitted an appeal to the decision made by the Town Administrator, Finance Director and DPW Director to deny his request for an abatement on his water/sewer bill for his property at 81 Hall Road, Sturbridge.

S. Suhoski presented the reason for denial of abatement, as stated in his reply dated March 6, 2013. He noted that it was evident that water did pass through the meter and the charges were correctly assessed. Mr. Broughton had installed new landscaping in April 2012, which necessitated watering twice daily, and prompted a corresponding increase in the metered usage and ultimate water and sewer use charges.

R. Broughton appeared before the Board and explained his case. He requested an abatement to 1,940 cu. Ft. average, or \$154.62. It was the consensus of the Board to continue the matter pending further information.

Old Sturbridge Inc. d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village – Liquor License Request Change of Manager

Old Sturbridge Village requested to change the manager for their liquor license from Bradley Arcoite to Matthew Fondas, of East Boston, for the licensed premises at 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road. The application filed February 25 indicates that Mr. Fondas will have the title General Manager and be on the premises 40-45 hours per week. His past employment history dates back only to 2011. A change of manager for an existing licensee does not require abutter or newspaper notification.

Mr. Fondas appeared before the Board, and confirmed that he was born a U.S. citizen. The Board questioned several incomplete sections of the application and who was managing since Mr. Arcoite left.

MOTION: Subject to receipt of the corporate vote, that the Board of Selectmen approve Matthew Fondas, of East Boston, as the new manager of record for the liquor license held by Old Sturbridge Inc. d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village as presented in application filed February 25, 2013, amended to include M. Fondas' resume and reference to U.S. Military base for residency, and background as prior manager, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Reports

Fire Chief Leonard Senecal reviewed his report with the Board. M. Blanchard commented on the SAFE grant.

Curt Meskus, Building Inspector, reviewed his report with the Board. He noted that there has been increased activity around lakes. He provided updates on the new development at the former Rom's location, the Blackington Building and Basketville, together with pending location of Michael's at Hobbs Brook.

Police Chief Thomas Ford reviewed his report with the Board. He said that Lt. Diogo had attended an Emergency Planning meeting with staff members at Burgess Elementary School. Officer Lombardi held the Student Police Academy at Tantasqua High School.

Water Exception Meter Discussion

S. Suhoski said that research indicates that five out of seven of the comparable communities that responded do not allow exception meters. Of the two that do – Ashland and Charlton (Southbridge water) – the utilization is from 5 to 15 percent.

Accordingly the data in the presentation illustrates rate and cost impacts if 10 percent of Sturbridge consumers installed exception meters.

M. Dowling asserted that the current system is equitable, because all are billed the same at 1:1 ratio. She asked whether the tiered rate would be variable.

There was much discussion on the issue with the Board of Selectmen, DPW Director and Town Administrator.

John Degnan noted that the condo association is a responsible steward of water use. He expressed concern with the just and equitable side of the equation. He read a statement into the record, noting that this is a 40B complex.

MOTION: That the Board continue the current policy of water/sewer rate at 1:1 ratio, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Appointment to Cultural Council

S. Suhoski noted that the amendments to the Town Charter increased the Cultural Council to a seven member committee. In response to a committee vacancy notice, Ms. Susan Caplette – a retired music teacher – expressed interest in joining the council. She has also been active musically with the Gateway Players, Central Baptist Church in Southbridge and by facilitating a monthly sing-a-long at the Sturbridge Senior Center. S. Suhoski felt that she would be a fine candidate for appointment.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Susan Caplette to the Cultural Council for a term expiring June 30, 2016, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Other Matters

Following are brief updates on other pending matters. NOTE: this is essentially unchanged from Monday's report as the past few work days were focused on budget, water meters and preparation for Saturday's budget meeting.

- **Riverlands Environmental (no change – awaiting quote):** Further to the update given by Tighe & Bond, S. Suhoski provided the engineer with a copy of the deed and legal description of the three parcels (containing just over 140 acres) that comprise the "Riverlands" premises. This will allow us to receive a quote for the required metes and bounds survey of the property after which we can present an entire package proposal to the Board and the Community Preservation Committee for funding.

- **Municipal Buildings:**

- ***Town Barn Roof (updated 2/22)*** – The roughly 20' x 20' section of membrane roof over the garage bays at the Town Barn that was blown back during the wind and rain storm of January 30 is being repaired under the Town's insurance coverage.
- ***Library Roof (updated 2/22)*** – The Library Director and S. Suhoski met with principals from two architectural firms, each of which clambered upon the roof to inspect the skylights and slates. We anticipate receiving a baseline proposal from Drummey Rosane Associates (the Burgess architects) within the next two weeks for budgeting purposes. No leaking has occurred since the most recent repairs; however, the architects did note concerns with flashing and potentially, the seal of the skylight system.
- ***8 Brookfield Road (no change)*** – Joe Bolduc of ATC/Cardno inspected the boiler room on January 18. S. Suhoski sent a reminder for the outcome report on Friday. Previously, American Environmental, Inc. reviewed the area and did not note any asbestos from a visual inspection.
- ***Center Office Building Front Door (updated 2/22)*** – S. Suhoski authorized The Lock-Out Locksmith of Webster to proceed with the installation of a commercial-grade exterior door handle and lock on the Main Street entrance of Center Office Building for an estimated cost of \$296. The keying will match our existing system so staff office keys will also operate the front door. The company recently relocated its office which caused some delay between the quote and implementation. The locksmith is expected in Town by Monday.
- ***Town Hall (updated 2/25)*** – As reported at the Board's February 25th meeting, over the prior weekend the "sticking" door was repaired at Town Hall. Quotes are being sought for remote "panic alarms" that would be operated through the existing alarm panels and S. Suhoski is following up on some other related questions and data.

- **Other Meetings / Miscellaneous:** Other items include: conducted Department Head meeting; discussions with Library Director, Board of Health Agent; met with Fire Dept. consultant; met with Police Chief re: personnel matters; met with resident concerning sewer abatement request; prepared and attended Saturday budget meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Correspondence

M. Blanchard read the correspondence list into the record.

Old Business

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P. Gimas noted that Grafton does not have an Assistant Town Clerk; they have a Principal Clerk that works in the Town Clerk's office.

P. Gimas advised the Board that she believes the Town would benefit from having a Public Health Nurse and that she will advocate for same at the next meeting.

T. Creamer advised the Board that upon further reflection with respect to complaints raised by members of the business community as it relates to the inequity of banners throughout town that promote Old Sturbridge Village, though no other businesses, he would be making a motion at the next meeting to have the Old Sturbridge Village banners affixed to the utility poles removed.

M. Dowling questioned whether the DCR tree grant funds could be extended into an additional fiscal year or "stockpile" trees for future use in the Commercial Tourist District. S. Suhoski to check with Tree Warden.

M. Dowling spoke about the student service certification program forms and received Board assent to place on Town letterhead.

New Business

There was no new business.

MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, §18-25, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; not to reconvene in open session, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

The Board convened in executive session at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date