

June 3, 2013

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2013**

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. at Tantasqua Regional High School Cafeteria, prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Old Sturbridge Village Change of Manager

James Donahue of Old Sturbridge Village appeared before the Board.

MOTION: That the Board approve the Change of Manager to Dara Griswold for Old Sturbridge Village, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: Four in favor; P. Gimas absent

Old Sturbridge Village: Innkeeper's License for Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges

MOTION: That the Board approve the Innkeeper License for Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: Four in favor; P. Gimas absent.

UNO Bar and Grille

MOTION: That the Board approve the new officer/director for Uno Restaurants LLC d/b/a Pizzeria Uno Chicago Bar & Grill, as previously approved by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: Four in favor; P. Gimas absent

Review of Outstanding Town Meeting Items

Shaun Suhoski entered the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

T.Creamer led the Board through a review of Town Meeting articles requiring Board recommendation/substitute motions.

Article 15: Revolving Funds

MOTION: To authorize a substitute motion to approve Article 15 as written, and place by the Board of Selectmen, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: Four in favor; P. Gimas absent.

Priscilla Gimas entered meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Article 17: Betterment Committee

MOTION: To authorize a substitute motion to approve Article 17 as written, and place by the Board of Selectmen, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke opposed.

Special Town Meeting Articles

Article 48: Community Preservation Act - Riverlands

MOTION: To authorize a substitute motion to approve Article 48 as written, and place by the Board of Selectmen, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: All in favor.

Article 49: Community Preservation Act – Conservation Restrictions

MOTION: To authorize a substitute motion to approve Article 49 as written, and place by the Board of Selectmen, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Article 52: Transfer from Free Cash

MOTION: To authorize a substitute motion to approve Article 52 as written, and place by the Board of Selectmen, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: Three in favor; M. Redetzke opposed; M. Dowling abstained.

Article 25: Payment In Lieu of Taxes Agreement

MOTION: To approve a substitute motion for Article 25 as presented, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke opposed.

S.Suhoski requested the Board to consider adding \$7,200 to line item #88 Building Dept. – Purchase of Services, whereas under any budget scenario the Town would need to continue with its contract with Charlton for a period of time into the new fiscal year while a new Building Inspector is recruited and hired.

MOTION: To approve an increase of \$7,200 to line item #88 Building Dept. – Purchase of Services, by T. Creamer
2nd: M. Redetzke
Vote: All in favor.

S.Suhoski also requested the Board to add \$33,600 to line item #81 Fire Dept. – Salaries/Wages to cover the compensation of a temporary Deputy Fire Chief through the transitional period described in his memorandum dated June 3, 2013. The Board discussed the request.

MOTION: To approve \$33,600 increase to line item #81 for a new total of \$629,548, by T. Creamer.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Three in favor; M. Blanchard and M. Dowling opposed.

MOTION: That the Town Meeting should consider Article 3 as printed on the warrant, by T. Creamer.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

The discussion was that the Finance Committee's substitute motion does not provide for any disposition of the structure itself.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen does not support, and recommends no action be taken by ATM on Article 20: Stabilization Fund, by T. Creamer.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Three in favor; M. Blanchard and M. Dowling opposed.

MOTION: That Article 54 of the STM be approved as written, by T. Creamer.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's June 3, 2013 memorandum concerning various Fire Department transition items and discussed the recommendation of appointing retired Sturbridge Fire Captain Edward Bourassa as temporary Deputy Fire Chief.

S.Suhoski noted from his written report that, though retired since 2007, Mr. Bourassa has 16 years of command experience in the Sturbridge Fire Dept. (14 years as Captain from 1983-2007) and a lengthy list of trainings and certifications. He is also very knowledgeable about the local operations, but removed sufficiently from day-to-day operations to provide a fresh eye during this transitional period. He said Acting Chief Ford concurs with this recommendation.

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S.Suhoski proposed that the Board ratify his appointment of Edward Bourassa to the position of Temporary Deputy Fire Chief through January 17, 2014, at a salary of \$62,400 to be paid in weekly installments of \$1,200 (\$30/hour @ 40 hrs/wk).

M. Dowling noted that she would vote against the motion, and that it was not personal. She said the appointee may very well be qualified, but that it should have been a listed agenda item. She also indicated that the Town Administrator had a duty to appoint an Acting Fire Chief first.

M. Blanchard noted that the appointment was not on the agenda, and that everybody in the past has been blamed for the problems in the Department, and that she would prefer an outside candidate.

T. Creamer noted that the recommendation of the Town Administrator came after the deadline for posting the meeting, so the Chair could not have reasonably foreseen the action. He said the current situation in the Department requires action, and noted that a majority of the Board voted to direct the Town Administrator to take "immediate" action at its May 29th meeting.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Edward Bourassa to the position of Temporary Deputy Fire Chief through January 17, 2014, at an annual salary of \$62,400, by T. Creamer.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date