

May 20, 2013

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
MAY 20, 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 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Service Announcements**

M. Blanchard announced the Memorial Day Parade.

M. Redetzke announced the Volunteer Appreciation event on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Sturbridge Senior Center.

T. Creamer announced that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Tantasqua Regional High School Auditorium.

**OSV Interim Manager – Change of Manager Request**

A correspondence dated May 16<sup>th</sup> from Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village, was copied to the Selectmen's mailboxes on Friday together with a resume for Dara M. Griswold, of Woodstock, CT, who has been named the interim General Manager for the food and beverage operation at OSV.

A formal application for Change of Manager was also tendered and Judy Knowles began processing same. Once complete, it will be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda. During the interim, all responsibility for compliance still resides with Old Sturbridge, Inc. d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village as the official licensee.

**Resignation from Historical Commission**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board correspondence from Brian Burns dated April 18<sup>th</sup> indicating his resignation from the Historical Commission. S. Suhoski held off on formal "acceptance" until he could speak with Brian Burns personally.

Brian has been a member of the Commission since 2003 and S. Suhoski said that he will miss his keen intellect and acerbic wit, as well as the plethora of sourced and documented data that he would provide on various topics.

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Brian Burns from the Historical Commission with regret and appreciation for his ten years of service, by M. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor

#### **Sturbridge Federated Church Annual Auction – Auctioneer’s License**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the Sturbridge Federated Church has scheduled their annual auction on the Town Common for Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 2:30 p.m. Tim Bardsley dropped off the license application on behalf of Robert H. Glass Associates, of Sterling, CT, to serve as auctioneer.

**MOTION:** That the Board of Selectmen approve an auctioneer’s license for Robert H. Glass Associates, of Sterling, CT, for the annual Sturbridge Federated Church auction to be held Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., by M. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor

#### **Pole Hearing – Farquhar Road (Pole #24)**

S. Suhoski submitted a copy to the Board of the public notice as published and sent via certified mail. He informed the Board that while neither the DPW Director nor the Tree Warden via email received today, object to the planned relocation, both parties suggested allowing time for the Town’s consulting engineer, CME Associates, to verify the location so that the same pole does not need to be yet again relocated in the next year or two as part of the Grand Trunk Trail extension.

Accordingly, S. Suhoski recommended that the pole hearing be continued for 30 days so that CME can review and verify the location will conform with future Town plans for this area. The Board can hear the reasons from any utility representatives tonight and, should there be no conflict with proposed plans, simply vote to approve at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** To continue the pole relocation hearing to Monday, June 17, 2013 at 6:45 p.m., by M. Blanchard.

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

**Vote:** All in favor.

#### **Don Miller – Questions/Discussion on Status of EDAC**

Don Miller appeared before the Board. He asked about the status of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Don Miller stated that S. Suhoski had previously indicated on October 1, 2012 that he would provide an interim action plan. He will focus on filling the three vacant seats on the EDAC. D. Miller further requested if the Board/Town Administrator intended to proceed with that plan.

T. Creamer said that he would vote in opposition to this until outstanding personnel matters with other committees have been brought to closure. In addition, he noted that with the still outstanding significant issues within the Fire Department, the status of the EDAC was not a priority or an issue that the Board has seen as one. M. Blanchard said that there will never be a time when everything is closed out. She noted that interviewing people is not that time consuming. M. Redetzke said that she would vote to support it because Don Miller and Dave Holland have been waiting since October for something to happen with this, and timelines have to be met. T. Creamer said that as the Chair will not schedule any further appointments to come forward until the Town Administrator has closed out the outstanding issues with other committees void a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen to direct the Chair to do otherwise.

**MOTION: To direct the Town Administrator to interview candidates for the EDAC to fill the vacancies by the end of June, by M. Dowling.**

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

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

T. Creamer noted that it is not on the agenda, nor has the Town Administrator requested it.

**MOTION: To entertain a motion to reappoint Don Miller to the Economic Development Advisory Committee, notwithstanding the Chairman's statement, by M. Dowling.**

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

**Vote: Two in favor; T. Creamer and P. Gimás opposed; M. Redetzke abstained.**

D. Miller suggested that the web page for the EDAC be brought up to date.

### **Correspondence**

M. Redetzke read the correspondence list into the record.

### **Old Business**

M. Blanchard noted that the crosswalks on Route 131 need to be painted.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Water Meter RFP. S. Suhoski said that it was on his "to-do" list.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Center Office Building door handle. S. Suhoski said that he had looked into it, and the vendor is waiting for delivery on a part. It should be fixed in the imminent future.

M. Dowling requested moving the minutes ahead of Public Service Announcements on Agendas (per vote).

M. Dowling announced a Meet the Selectmen on the Town Common on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. with M. Blanchard on the Common. M. Dowling is to have the July schedule.

M. Redetzke announced a Meet the Selectman on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at Town Hall.

M. Redetzke asked about the response to the letter from Stephen Chojnicki. S. Suhoski said that he had met with the DPW Director and Finance Director, and there was some disagreement as to the outcome. S. Suhoski and Greg Morse have a recommendation that needs to be put into writing and signed off on. He said that the Board would be copied. T. Creamer asked for a commitment from the Town Administrator that this individual will be notified this week of the findings so that if he wants to appeal, he can do so. S. Suhoski agreed.

P. Gimas asked about the status of the Sturbridge Nursery School roof. S. Suhoski said that he would check to see that the roof leak had been reported to the Town's insurance company.

T. Creamer said that there had been comments made by a member of the Board of Selectmen regarding the Sturbridge Tourist Association which were judgmental and disrespectful to the members of the STA by failing to use appropriate professional discretion in reviewing and authenticating the information provided to this individual. He said that it was unfortunate that a member of the Board had cast aspersions on the STA. He said that on behalf of this individual and himself, he apologized for the STA having been disrespected in a manner that was inappropriate.

T. Creamer said that there was an email mentioned by a member of the Board of Selectmen between a resident and an individual member of the Board, resulting in the resident dragging the rest of the Board into it. He noted that it was inappropriate that this personal issue even surfaced.

T. Creamer said that there had been some inaccurate comments by a member of the Board of Selectmen regarding an alleged health matter on South Shore Drive. He noted that the Board of Health is a sovereign board, elected by the voters of Sturbridge, and as such the Board of Selectmen has no jurisdiction with respect to their responsibilities or the execution thereof, and the Board of Health had reviewed the matter properly, as consistent with their role, followed by a vote to take no action on the allegations. He cautioned the Board about making statements without vetting the

information first, noting that it was a disservice to all involved. He read his May 14<sup>th</sup> letter (which had been addressed to S. Suhoski and the resident, and copied to M. Dowling and Linda Cocalis) into the record. He called the Board's attention to the meeting of November 9, 2009 when the Board made a motion that all complaints regarding health issues directed to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen would be referred to the Board of Health.

T. Creamer spoke to three or four times that a member of the Board of Selectmen had revisited issues which had been previously addressed and brought to closure, creating repetitive dialogue. He said that once a position has been taken, the Board needs to let it be and focus on what is next. He asked the Board to review parliamentary procedure, and read the process for reconsideration from Robert's Rules of Order into the record.

T. Creamer asked for an update regarding hazardous delineation on the Riverlands. He said that if there is a way to promote access to the Riverlands, an effort should be made to do so. S. Suhoski said that he would get the delineation from the engineers. He noted that there had been a discussion on how to use that information regarding fencing and posting.

T. Creamer announced that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Tantasqua Regional High School Auditorium.

### **New Business**

M. Dowling said that she will request an executive session under purchase of real property (in future).

M. Dowling said that she will request a discussion of the Sturbridge Tourist Association with the Board of Selectmen after the Annual Town Meeting.

M. Dowling said that she will request an executive session re. the Town Administrator's contract.

M. Redetzke discussed the Worcester County Selectmen's Association meeting and \$50 dues.

M. Redetzke announced that the Worcester County Selectmen have been invited to Sturbridge for June 20<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Hall.

M. Redetzke announced the issues for Meet the Selectmen at the Senior Center: Dog Park, Drainage at Glen Ridge, Hunting at Riverlands. T. Creamer said that the Board of Selectmen will need to determine whether hunting is to be allowed at Riverlands (policy considerations).

P. Gimas announced that the Government Services Study Committee will give its year-end report at the June 24, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting.

**Ask the Selectmen**

T. Creamer received a phone call regarding the Pre-Town Meeting Town Meeting. Will a member of the BOS be present to answer questions regarding the BOS budget. M. Redetzke said that she would attend.

Don Miller asked why Town brush cutting on Old Sturbridge Village access road, and why maintaining road.

Carol Childress spoke to initiatives of the Sturbridge Tourist Association in the coming year.

Jason Girouard asked whether the Board would bypass the water ban 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mass Motion for Tantasqua Student Council. M. Dowling said there would be no harm in allowing that for a few.

**MOTION: That the Board issue a temporary exemption to the water ban to allow the Tantasqua Student Council at a location to be determined, by M. Dowling.**

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

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

**MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.**

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

**Vote: All in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date