

April 15, 2014

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2014**

Present: Priscilla Gimas, Chairman
Mary Dowling
Mary Blanchard
Craig Moran
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Redetzke was absent due to illness. P. Gimas wished her a speedy recovery.

Public Service Announcements

P. Gimas welcomed the new Selectman, Craig Moran, and congratulated Mary Blanchard on being re-elected.

M. Blanchard congratulated Priscilla Gimas on being re-elected.

M. Dowling congratulated everyone who had been elected and re-elected at the Town Election. She thanked Don Fairbrother, who had stepped up to run for Selectman, but had not been elected. She expressed the hope that he would stay involved in public service to the Town.

P. Gimas congratulated Jacob Ryan, the 18-year-old who had been elected to the Tantasqua School Committee.

Appointment of Part-Time Police Officer – Cody Thomasian

Police Chief Thomas Ford introduced Cody Thomasian to the Board.

A memorandum and request from Chief Ford to appoint Cody Thomasian as a part-time Police Officer had been previously distributed to the Board, along with Mr. Thomasian's resume. Mr. Thomasian, of Worcester, was a finalist during the recent recruitment for full-time police officers. He is currently a full-time police officer at UMass Medical School, is full-time academy trained and has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Quinsigamond Community College.

S. Suhoski met with Mr. Thomasian and Lt. Saloio, and was convinced that he is a suitable candidate for appointment to the Sturbridge Police Department.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Cody Thomasian of Worcester to the position of Part-

Time Police Officer in the Police Department, at a starting hourly rate of \$22.86, subject to a six-month probationary period, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Auctioneer Permit – Petrowsky Auctioneers, Inc.

Samuel Piotrkowski appeared before the Board. S. Suhoski submitted to the Board the application of Samuel R. Piotrkowski, Petrowsky Auctioneers, Inc. (MA License No. AU736), to conduct an auction on May 2, 2014 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Tri-Community Rental, 21 Main Street. The new DPW and field signage has been installed at New Boston Road Extension.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve an auction permit for Petrowsky Auctioneers, Inc. on May 2, 2014 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 21 Main Street, by M. Blanchard

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Common Victuallers License: Jimmy D's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop, 413 Main Street

James Dhembe appeared before the Board. S. Suhoski submitted to the Board an application from The Banian 5, Inc. d/b/a Jimmy D's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop for a Common Victualler's license to operate an ice cream and sandwich shop at 413 Main Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily. S. Suhoski requested an update from the Board of Health on this location.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve a Common Victualler's license to The Banian 5, Inc. d/b/a Jimmy D's Ice cream & Sandwich Shop, 413 Main Street, with hours of operation between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Dangerous Dog Hearing (Continued)

C. Moran recused himself from the Board.

Police Chief Thomas Ford, Sgt. Kevin Mercier, Animal Control Officer Ron Komar, and Christian Seguin appeared before the Board. They were sworn in by P. Gimas. C. Moran recused himself, as he had not been present during the original hearing, and one of his employees had been involved in this matter.

A German Shepard named "Finn" was determined to be a "dangerous dog" by a 4-0 vote of the Board of Selectmen on September 16, 2013 following a hearing related to a pair of biting incidents. Finn was previously owned by Christian and Linda Seguin and S. Suhoski was advised that he no longer resides in Sturbridge.

This was a continuation of the public hearing that commenced on April 7th where the Board heard sworn testimony from Town officials concerning a third biting incident involving Finn that occurred on February 16, 2014. The Animal Control Officer had recommended humane euthanization, as he believes that Finn will bite again.

Despite notification of the hearing to the owners, victim and former trainer, there had been no other parties in attendance. Given the gravity of potential outcomes, including the possibility of an order of euthanization, the Board had continued the hearing until April 15th to afford the various parties an additional opportunity to testify.

S. Suhoski informed the Board that he had received a telephone call from a man identifying himself as Christian Seguin. Mr. Seguin told S. Suhoski that there was a "huge miscommunication" and that he had given up Finn to a police dog training facility in Connecticut "three or four weeks ago." Mr. Seguin said it was a very difficult decision, but that it was the best choice for Finn.

On April 8th, Finn's former trainer called to advise S. Suhoski of similar information, adding that the dog was brought to the "Police Dog Center of Connecticut" where he received addition focused training before being matched with a suitable home.

Although asked, neither party had advised S. Suhoski of Finn's current location.

Mr. Seguin provided the Board with a letter from the police dog training center that corroborated his statements. He submitted a letter to the Board from Alyssa Larson.

S. Suhoski discussed the matter with Town Counsel. Based upon the information, and subject to the Board being satisfied with Mr. Seguin's testimony, the following finding and further order was recommended:

That based upon the hospital report, police report and sworn testimony of the Animal Control Officer concerning the bite the Board of Selectmen finds that the German Shepard known as "Finn" is a "dangerous dog."

The Board has received additional sworn testimony from Christian Seguin that "Finn" has been permanently removed from Sturbridge.

Further, based upon this most recent biting incident, it is apparent that the Board's order of September 16, 2013 is not sufficient to protect public safety.

Therefore, the Board of Selectmen issue the following order:

That the German Shepard known as "Finn" is not to be brought back into Sturbridge for any length of time or for any reason, and, if the dog is found in Sturbridge, it shall be seized by the Animal Control Officer and humanely euthanized.

A copy of this order shall be provided to the police training center.

S. Suhoski noted that the Board already had the testimony regarding the latest dog bite. M. Dowling asked whether the new owner has full knowledge of the dog's prior history. C. Seguin said that he has. M. Dowling said that the Board had been operating under miscommunication. She told C. Seguin that he had done something that had taken courage, by putting the dog into the best situation for it, and sparing his life.

M. Dowling said that someone had sent her an anonymous letter. She said that unsigned letters don't carry any weight with the Board.

M. Dowling suggested that there be more communication with the Animal Control Officer and the owner, and that the ACO check in every two weeks.

MOTION: That the dog be deemed a dangerous dog, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: Two in favor; P. Gimás opposed; C. Moran abstained; M. Redetzke was absent.

MOTION: Consistent with Town Counsel's advice, that the dog not return to Sturbridge for any length of time, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: Two in favor; P. Gimás opposed; C. Moran abstained; M. Redetzke was absent.

M. Blanchard said that if the dog does show up in Town, she may change her mind. Christian Seguin assured the Board that the dog will not return to Sturbridge. M. Dowling was not in favor of euthanizing the dog.

R. Komar asked about the status of transfer of ownership of the dog. C. Seguin said that the new owner had signed for the dog. M. Blanchard asked that a copy be forwarded to the Town Administrator.

Chief Ford said that the Police Dept. will follow the Board's orders.

MOTION: If the dog does return to Sturbridge, the dog would be seized and kept and another dog hearing be held, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: M. Dowling in favor; M. Blanchard and P. Gimás opposed; C. Moran abstained; M. Redetzke was absent.

R. Komar asked about the status of the transfer of ownership. Chief Ford said that the trainer is the new owner of the dog. M. Blanchard asked that a copy of the document be forwarded to the Town Administrator.

Chief Ford said that the police will follow the Board's orders, and if there is a violation to the conditions, he will inform the Board of that.

M. Dowling said that the Board depends upon recommendations. S. Suhoski said that his report was based upon what had been presented the previous week; now the Board knows that the dog has been relocated. He has spoken with Mr. Seguin and Town Counsel.

C. Moran, speaking as a private citizen, said that the Animal Control Officer and Chief Ford have spent a lot of time on this matter. He noted that the dog has been relocated out of town; if the dog is brought back, it should be euthanized before another person is bitten.

M. Dowling asked what the police would do if the dog returns to Sturbridge. M. Blanchard offered to make another motion.

MOTION: That the German Shepherd known as Finn not be brought back to Sturbridge for any length of time or for any reason, and if the dog is found in Sturbridge, it shall be seized by the Animal Control Officer and humanely euthanized, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: M. Dowling and M. Blanchard in favor; P. Gimmas opposed; C. Moran abstained; M. Redetzke was absent.

M. Dowling was in favor of holding another hearing, in the event that the dog returns to Sturbridge. S. Suhoski said that the owner would have redress through the courts before another action is taken.

R. Komar said that he had talked to the trainer and his mother, and they said that the dog was out of town, but did not indicate where. M. Dowling said that the Board had not known that information at the last meeting. In the future, she suggested that the Board be given all of the facts. Chief Ford said that hearing that the dog is out of town is not considered a fact.

C. Moran asked whether the dog had a microchip. C. Seguin did not answer the question, but stated that it didn't matter, as the dog will not return to Sturbridge.

C. Moran returned to the Board.

Discussion re: Sturbridge Tourist Association (updated report)

Per the Board's request, S. Suhoski submitted a pair of options with respect to future operation of the Sturbridge Tourist Association (STA) that had been discussed at the March 17th meeting.

The Board requested a refined budget estimate with respect to so-called "Option B" which would fund a part-time Economic Development / Tourism Coordinator to provide support to the STA and Town to promote tourism as a key component of the Town's economic development agenda.

As stated in S. Suhoski's initial report, after extensive review and consideration, he came to the conclusion that the present composition and assumed function of the STA is not an efficient use of volunteer or financial resources.

S. Suhoski said that the STA's mission should be to promote tourism as a core component of the Town's economic development agenda. To accomplish this, he proposed:

- I. That the STA's composition be amended to include two (2) members from the hotel/motel industry, two (2) members from restaurants or other tourist-related business and one (1) member to be a citizen-at-large. This will require a general bylaw amendment and should also include a Charter revision to reduce the number of members from seven to five (or, ideally, to remove any reference to this committee from the Town Charter), and
- II. That the STA re-focus its role to:
 - (a) Be a decision-making entity for funding proposals to market and promote Sturbridge as a tourist destination under a common theme with local and regional tourist-related entities,
 - (b) Fund externally-managed events (preferably quarterly by season) designed to draw regional visitors to Sturbridge, and
 - (c) Support the public restrooms on Route 20 and a Visitor Information Center, and
- III. That to support this model, the STA's annual budget allocation be broken into two parts:
 - (a) \$40,000+/- to fund a part-time "Economic Development / Tourism Coordinator" position that would promote tourism and economic development initiatives in the community and provide technical guidance and support to the STA, and
 - (b) \$105,000+/- (the remainder of funds) to be administered by the STA for any of the purposes described in paragraph II above.

Economic development staff estimated at "low", "mid" and "high" range:

Low (\$60K): \$32.84/hr @ 18 hrs/wk = 30,856 + 2500 supp/equip : **\$33,357**
Mid (\$70K): \$38.31/hr @ 18 hrs/wk = 35,996 + 2500 supp/equip : **\$38,497**

High (\$80K): \$43.79/hr @ 18 hrs/wk = 41,145 + 2500 supp/equip: **\$43,646**

S. Suhoski noted that the STA is not intended to be an implementing body. It would revert to its traditional role as an approving authority for proposals that are deemed to be beneficial to the economic tourism base in Sturbridge.

With professional guidance and support, the STA could function as intended while improving the capacity of the Town, through the Tourism Coordinator, to enhance its economic base through tourism promotion, special events and coordination of effort with other local and regional tourist-related entities including the Chamber of Commerce.

S. Suhoski felt that it would be foolhardy to ignore the importance of tourism on the economic base in Sturbridge. McCabe Associates recently found as part of its Commercial Tourist District research that the great majority of our hotel and motel visitors come from the region and beyond.

S. Suhoski asked that the Board consider that the hotel/motel and meals tax are projected at \$780,000 in general fund revenue for FY15. Absent this predominantly tourism-driven source of revenue, local property taxes would need to increase by nearly four percent to make up the difference.

S. Suhoski noted that the above does not account for the more substantial “multiplier effect” from these service businesses through employment, payroll being recirculated in the community and region, and patrons visiting other businesses (e.g. various antique stores, candle shop, museum, movie theater, etc.).

S. Suhoski said that the local population of Sturbridge is not sufficient to carry the various hotels, motels and restaurants that grace the community. Other destinations in the region can and do “put heads in beds.”

Economic development – and tourism success – is the sum of all parts and we must engage all of the attractions from the region while providing lodging right here in Sturbridge.

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a copy of the General Bylaw Chapter 1.90 that has been marked-up with language proposed to implement the above recommendation.

Also, Section 6-2 of the Town Charter would require deletion of the Sturbridge Tourist Association from the “partial appointments” category (see following excerpt):

Partial Appointments

Sturbridge Tourist Association	6 of 7	3 years
Personnel Classification Committee	4 of 5	3 years
Community Preservation Committee	3 of 9	3 years
Zoning Board of Appeals	2 of 7	3 years
{Amended 4-9-12 by referendum & STM 11-7-11}		

Updated for April 15th Meeting: S. Suhoski heard selectmen and others – including the statement of the current STA chairman – indicate that an “economic development” position may overreach the scope of tourism and event coordination.

Simply by way of discussion, S. Suhoski offered that providing Town staff support to the STA committee and coordination of events with the Chamber of Commerce and other local and regional business entities could be accomplished through the addition of 10 to 15 hours per week for an existing, qualified staff person.

The hourly rate would need to be determined by the Personnel Committee, but for planning purposes, would approximate \$20 to \$25 / hr. in S. Suhoski’s opinion ($25 \times 15 \times 52.2 = \$19,575$). Throw in \$425 for supplies and this model would cost \$20,000 per year, as there would already be an office and computer work station available, etc.

S. Suhoski said that this would offer staff support to implement the votes of the committee, and would make people more likely to stay with the committee. M. Blanchard said she needs to see an exact dollar amount per hour. She agreed that the mission and refocusing is good, and the makeup of the committee back to the original five members. She noted that the STA doesn’t have to do all of the work themselves. She would like to hear from the people involved.

M. Dowling agreed with the email from Brian Amedy. She did not think that an Economic Development Coordinator position could be funded with STA funds.

Alix McNitt and Melissa Wright of the Chamber of Commerce and Christine Tieri of Smith and Jones appeared before the Board. A. McNitt said that the Chamber fully supports the Town having an Economic Development Coordinator. She said that the Chamber has been trying very hard to work within the constraints of the structure of the STA. She said that it poses some challenges to having a responsive marketing initiative going on. She noted that there is interest in having more events, and anything that drives tourism is in everyone’s best interests. They want to stress marketing, and are looking to work more closely to having our interests served.

Christine Tieri of Smith and Jones, an idea agency worked with STA and SATA in the past. She said that thinking of Sturbridge as one brand, it doesn’t help when there are so many different things going on. She suggested leveraging marketing and promotions. She reviewed the websites for the STA, and noted that December 2012 was the latest update. She said that it helps everyone to have one website calendar. She encouraged the Board to see what synergy is possible. She said that having a social media strategy makes sense to market this area as one cohesive unit.

M. Wright said that the Harvest Festival demonstrated how to create opportunities for Sturbridge and other towns they serve with their membership. She said that they want to be a good partner and collaborate with the Town. She noted that events like the

Harvest Festival take marketing, and the Chamber would be willing to partner with the Town in that manner.

P. Gimas said that Brian Amedy had sent a memo indicating that \$17,500 of STA money was approved for marketing, and \$9,595 was spent out of the marketing account, leaving \$7,900 in that account. She asked if anything has been planned. A. McNitt said that the new series of campaigns has just been approved. It was all in the budget that was approved in August.

S. Suhoski agreed that the STA should be a decision making entity under a common theme, and there should not be multiple websites and lack of coordination. He said that if the STA had someone who could take minutes of the meetings, they would be more effective, and the committee would be better served because of it.

P. Gimas asked who would implement the ideas of the tourism coordinator. A. McNitt said that person would manage the events.

Bob Datz, Chairman of the Tourism Committee at the Chamber, said that they are looking at a year-round calendar of events that they are trying to plan; with the structure and funding they have, there is a lead time of 14 months to do an event right. They are trying to expand the calendar and come up with creative ways for people to come here and enjoy the area. A structure is needed that works well with a system of planning.

Russell Prentiss of the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, and the Hotel and Visitors Bureau, considered it a bad idea to take funds away from the Chamber. He said that the Tourism Committee meets once a month, sometimes twice, and includes members from the Last Green Valley. He said it was a robust group that is into tourism, and if they had the funds to do more, it could work well.

C. Moran said that the more money invested in this, the more dollars that will come back to the Town. He noted that the Host is the biggest hotel/motel tax generator in the Town.

M. Blanchard requested a job description for the coordinator.

P. Gimas said that the current committee is not functional, and could be managed through the Chamber. She said that she would like to work with the expertise that the Chamber already has. She stressed the need to address the concerns of small businesses, and to promote the businesses that don't belong to the Chamber. She said that she would consider going back to a SATA model with conditions to address those concerns.

A. McNitt said that any Sturbridge business can have their information made available at the Chamber, free of charge.

M. Dowling said that the best solution would be a SATA model, working with the Town Administrator, and a part-time person who works under the Chamber's direction, but is a town employee.

P. Gimas said that one of the complaints is that the Chamber is not favoring Sturbridge enough, considering the money that it is being given. She would like to see it funded through the Chamber, with a heavy focus on Sturbridge. A. McNitt suggested doing more to attract conferences to Sturbridge.

M. Dowling suggested finding a way to keep a portion of the \$150,000 and use it to promote Sturbridge businesses that are not members of the Chamber. A. McNitt said that the way the tax dollars are set up at Town Meeting, a certain amount must be spent on events.

P. Gimas requested input from the Chamber regarding the job description, and S. Suhoski's input on what this person should be doing. S. Suhoski requested more direction.

C. Moran noted that there are consulting companies and event planning companies that put on events, and seem to be successful at what they do. He suggested that money be spent on that end.

C. Tieri suggested the possibility of having a brainstorming session, with a moderator, someone from the Town, people from the Chamber and Tourism Committee, in a spirit of working together to outline something that could be done together. There should be a representative who answers to the Board of Selectmen, working part-time, accountable to the Town, and working with the Chamber.

M. Dowling suggested that the Board hold a work session meeting, with this topic as the only agenda item. She said that the STA is redundant to the Chamber's Tourism Committee.

A. McNitt recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee. S. Suhoski suggested filling some of the seats with a citizen, a bed and breakfast person, hotel/motel person, Brian Amedy, P. Gimas and Kevin Smith, to work on a half year budget.

P. Gimas did not think anything could be resolved before fall. She suggested it be partially funded, then in the fall put in the rest of the money with a program. In the following year it would be fully funded.

S. Suhoski asked whether the Board wanted him to inquire with Town Counsel regarding partial funding. P. Gimas suggested it be done at Special Town Meeting. That was the consensus of the Board. P. Gimas said that she would discuss it with Brian Amedy.

Tom Stewart and Veterans Services Director Tim Hickey re: Clause 56 Real Estate Tax Exemption for Overseas Deployment of Mass. National Guard or Military Reservists

Thomas Stewart and Tim Hickey, Veterans Agent, appeared before the Board. S. Suhoski informed the Board that they would hear information further to the placeholder article seeking whether the Town wishes to accept MGL c. 59, §5 Clause 56, which would allow members of the Massachusetts national guard or military reservists who are on active duty to obtain a reduction of all or part of their real and personal property taxes for any fiscal year they are serving in a foreign country.

The MassDOR bulletin recently forwarded to S. Suhoski was copied again to the Board, and outlined the above exemption.

The language of the authorization on the warrant speaks only to the program on a “going forward” basis. T. Stewart spoke to the fact that the program should be adopted with some retroactive component. This action, should the Board wish to pursue, will require different language for Town Meeting, as the action will require the filing and approval of special legislation.

S. Suhoski noted that the acceptance of Clause 56 is only valid for two years and will require reauthorization of Town Meeting biannually. Also, the program is not established or managed by the Board of Selectmen, but as stated, the authorization allows the Board of Assessors to establish program regulations. The Principal Assessor and Finance Director have been undertaking some research into other communities that have such a program.

T. Stewart said that he would like to become more involved with the American Legion in Sturbridge. He requested that the Board accept Chapter 56, and that special legislation be requested. T. Hickey said that it is advantageous for the Town to do this, and noted that it needs to be reapproved in two years. He noted that it could ease the veterans’ financial problems.

Bob Lucier, retired Navy veteran, appeared before the Board. He said that when veterans return from active duty, they get orientation and are told about their benefits on the federal level. He questioned some of the state laws. T. Hickey read the criteria into the record.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen adopt Clause 56 of MGL Chapter 59, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen seek special legislation to retroactively apply Clause 56 as of September 11, 2001, by M. Dowling
2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

S. Suhoski said that he would work with Town Counsel, Tim Hickey, Barbara Barry and Tom Stewart to accomplish this.

FY15 Budget Review (continued)

S. Suhoski informed the Board that he plans to attend the Finance Committee meeting on April 22nd in hopes of reaching consensus on budget recommendations. As with past years, he recommended that members of the Board attend for informational purposes, and then the Board can finalize or revise any particular line items at its April 28th meeting.

Line 8: Merit Based Incentive

MOTION: That the Board support Line 8 at \$20,722, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 87: Building Inspector Salary

MOTION: That the Board approve Line 87 as recommended, in the amount of \$71,750, by M. Dowling.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: Three in favor; P. Gimas opposed; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 89: Building Inspector Purchase of Services

MOTION: To release the hold on Line 89 and approve at \$1,620, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 90: Building Inspector Supplies

MOTION: That the Board support Line 90 at \$2,527, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 101: Burgess Elementary School

MOTION: That the Board support Line 101 at \$9,639,168, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 102: Tantasqua Town Share

MOTION: To release the hold on Line 102, and support it at \$5,757.937, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 103: Tantasqua Transportation Assessment

MOTION: That the Board support Line 103 at \$167,874, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 107: Department of Public Works Salaries/Wages

MOTION: To release the hold on Line 107, and support it at \$680,818, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 118: Landfill/Recycling Center Salaries/Wages

MOTION: That the Board support Line 118 at \$100,832, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 135: Council on Aging Transportation

MOTION: To reconsider the vote on Line 135, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

MOTION: That the Board support Line 135 at \$3,200, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold action on Line 67 Senior Center Supplies pending information on the status of the chairs.

Line 143: Joshua Hyde Library Operations - Department Head Salary

MOTION: That the Board support Line 143 at \$68,129, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Line 78: Police Department Supplies

MOTION: That the Board reconsider Line 78, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

MOTION: That the Board support Line 78 at \$60,330, by M. Blanchard.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

MassDOT Grant (\$64,922) – “Winter Rapid Recovery Road” Program

S. Suhoski said that as noted in the April 9th correspondence from Transportation Secretary Richard A. Davey, the Town of Sturbridge’s portion of the \$40 million supplemental funding bill for repairing winter road damage is \$64,922. S. Suhoski has

been advised that these contracts should be returned immediately. He requested that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to execute any related documentation for this grant. In the coming weeks, the DPW Director will provide the Board a list of the recommended work.

S. Suhoski noted that while the grant is helpful, the fact remains that the Chapter 90 program remains woefully underfunded year after year. He remains hopeful that the Governor will eventually recognize the benefit of the program and support the legislature's full authorization of \$300 million for this program.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to execute the contract and any related documents to access the "Winter Rapid Recovery Road" program through MassDOT, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Appointment to the Design Review Committee

MOTION: To appoint Cindy Forgit to the Design Review Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2015, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Appointment to the Senior Municipal Service Program

MOTION: To approve the appointment to the Senior Municipal Service Program as stated in the application, to serve in the Recreation Department, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Resignation

MOTION: To accept with regret and thanks the resignation of firefighter Andrew Cornell, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

MOTION: That the Board defer reorganization in order to provide the opportunity for a full Board to make the decision; if M. Redetzke is not present at the next meeting, the Board will move forward with the reorganization on April 28th, by M. Dowling.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: Four in favor; M. Redetzke was absent.

New Signage

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the new DPW and field signage has been installed at New Boston Road Extension.

This sign, along with the sign for the Cedar Lake Recreation Area on Cedar Street, replaced worn-out signage through FY14 Betterment funds which also included a new directional sign to the fields at the Town Barn and a sign for Turner Field.



Other Matters: Following are brief updates on other pending matters.

- **Municipal Buildings:**

- ***Library (updated 4/4)*** – The Capital Planning Committee included replacement of the skylight system, and sufficient funds for replacement of the gutter system, in its FY15 recommendations.
- ***Town Hall / Center Office Building (updated 3/28)*** – On March 17th, electrician Scott Southworth toured Town Hall for purposes of estimating the cost and feasibility of installing an electrical hook-up for a portable generator. Due to the layout of the utility room versus the location of the main electric service, a portable unit may not be feasible. Mr. Southworth came back on March 19th with a generation consultant to review the total load of the building. S. Suhoski anticipates receiving quotes for a portable – and permanent – generator solution in the near future. Lt. Saloio and S. Suhoski met this week to discuss two small grant programs that may assist with this endeavor.
- ***Public Safety Complex (updated 4/4)*** – Earlier this week, CME Associates provided the proposed bid documents for review by local officials to facilitate bidding and replacement of the garage floor. CME estimates receiving bids on or about May 12th with construction occurring between June 1st and August 1st.

- **Infrastructure Projects:**

- ***Mountainbrook Road Betterment / Drainage Project (updated 4/11)***: The DPW Director completed the NOI for submittal earlier this week. The process requires notification of abutters and it is not clear if the April 17th meeting can be met. S. Suhoski requested whether the Conservation Commission can schedule a special meeting so that this item does not languish to May.

- ***Champeaux Road Bridge (updated 3/14)***: The state Senate has included the \$1.45 million authorization for funds in the transportation bond bill; matching the House language. If the project survives the final approval process the Town will need to convince the Governor's office of the importance of releasing funds. Fortunately, as outlined in the report in the FY15 budget books, there is sufficient state Chapter 90 allocations available to complete the work. The DPW Director will bring this project back before the Board of Selectmen prior to any construction.

Other Meetings / Miscellaneous: S. Suhoski received revised RFP for water and wastewater operations bid from Town Counsel and ready to advertise upon update to some technical sections; met with Fire Chief regarding various matters; met with Police Chief regarding various matters; met with DPW Director regarding various matters; met with Finance Director regarding budget and warrant matters; attended CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee meeting (planning next legislative breakfast to focus on economic development and job creation tools for municipalities.

MOTION: That the Board 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: C. Moran in favor; P. Gimas in favor; M. Dowling in favor; M. Blanchard in favor.

The Board convened in executive session at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date