

July 21, 2014

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JULY 21, 2014**

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

Mary Dowling was absent.

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

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard said that any citizen interested in serving on the Town Administrator Search Committee has until July 24th to submit a letter of interest.

M. Blanchard announced that the meeting was being recorded by a reporter from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes of June 9, 2014 as amended, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of June 17, 2014 as amended, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Three in favor; M. Redetzke abstained; M. Dowling was absent.

Request for Special Event Liquor License: Hamilton Rod & Gun Club

Ron Komar, Manager of the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, appeared before the Board. He said that the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club was seeking to hold its Fourth Annual Milltown Auto Show on August 1st and 2nd. The annual event is held on the grounds of the club at 24 Hamilton Road as outlined in his correspondence dated July 17, 2014.

The club requested the Board's approval of essentially two, one-day licenses for the event on Friday, August 1st from Noon until 1:00 a.m., and on Saturday, August 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until Midnight. The Chief of Police had indicated his approval.

Tom Creeden said that this event is scheduled to take place on the same weekend as the Pan Mass Challenge, and suggested that in the future it be scheduled on a different

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weekend. R. Komar noted that most of the crowd comes on Saturday, after the race has kicked off.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve two, one-day liquor licenses in favor of the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc., 24 Hamilton Road, for Friday, August 1st from Noon until 1:00 a.m. and for Saturday, August 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until Midnight for the pavilion and adjacent field utilized for vehicle display, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

Department Head Report

Police Chief Thomas Ford reviewed his reports with the Board. He said that three Sturbridge police officers were commended for their actions following a recent home invasion incident. Also, Officers Hemingway and Obuchowski and Dispatcher Brunelle had responded quickly and appropriately to the armed robbery at the Publick House.

Chief Ford announced that the Sturbridge Police Department had received full accreditation on May 1st. This accreditation will expire in May 2017.

Chief Ford said that the School Resource Officer began a RAD Kids' Program at Burgess Elementary School, as well as a RAD class for adults.

Class 2 License Request: Charles River Service, Inc.

The Board received documents submitted by the Cassim brothers to realign certain businesses in town. Since meeting with Eric and Robert Cassim, S. Suhoski believed that the intent of the various documents was actually quite simple and reflected in the two Class II license requests.

- 1) To leave ownership and management of Charles River Service, Inc. businesses (a livery and a proposed re-naming of Sturbridge Car Service) at 2 Main Street in the name of Eric Cassim, and
- 2) To leave ownership and management of the business at 33 Main Street (re-named Sturbridge Auto Sales) in the name of Robert Cassim.

To do so, the existing Class II licenses at 2 Main Street (Robert Cassim d/b/a Sturbridge Auto Sales), 29 Main Street (Robert Cassim d/b/a Sullivan Auto Sales) and 33 Main Street (Garfield Inc. d/b/a Sullivan's Auto Sales) would be rescinded.

If acceptable, the licenses to be issued would be as indicated in the proposed motion, which retains the maximum limitation on vehicles as currently exists (and rescinds the Class I license for 29 Main Street which has been transferred to another owner).

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Note that the existing license for 29 Main Street that would be rescinded has a maximum vehicle limitation of 15 for sale or repair. If the following is approved, the total number of vehicles on the three sites would reduce from 45 to 30 maximum.

MOTION 1: That the Board of Selectmen rescind the Class II license for the following premises: (A) 2 Main Street (Robert Cassim d/b/a Sturbridge Auto Sales), (B) 29 Main Street (Robert Cassim d/b/a Sullivan Auto Sales) and (C) 33 Main Street (Garfield Inc. d/b/a Sullivan's Auto Sales, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

MOTION 2: That the Board of Selectmen approve a Class II license in favor of Eric Cassim, Charles River Service, Inc. d/b/a Sturbridge Car Service, at 2 Main Street for daily operations from 9:00 until 5:00 p.m. subject to a maximum limitation of 20 vehicles to be stored on the property for sale or repair per the plan dated January 20, 2004, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

Discussion of Competitive Procurement for Municipal Electricity Demand

S. Suhoski said that over the winter of 2013-2014 the "real time" electricity pricing through the Hampshire Council of Government spiked egregiously, prompting the need for special town meeting action to fund certain electricity accounts.

Earlier this year, S. Suhoski had requested that Beth Greenblatt of Beacon Integrated Solutions (the Town's energy consultant that assisted with the solar project review) whether she could assist the Town in finding a more competitive price for electricity needs without over-subscribing beyond the estimated net metering credits associated with the solar project (update on solar project emailed on July 18).

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board some background information from Beth, and her partner Antonio Aguilar of Axsess, Inc., concerning their ability to manage the Town's energy needs. S. Suhoski had intended to engage their services going so far as to issue a termination letter to HCOG in April 2014. The HCOG took a position that our contract had automatically renewed for calendar year 2014. S. Suhoski referred the matter to Town Counsel on April 24th; however, resolution fell through the cracks and he restated the request on July 18th.

Because of S. Suhoski's pending departure, and the importance of not repeating the pricing spikes of 2013-2014, he was hopeful that the Board would consider utilizing Beacon / Axsess for energy procurement.

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Beth Greenblatt and Antonio Aguilar appeared before the Board. B. Greenblatt explained that they work with their clients to form objectives, plans, guidelines and strategies in order to make smart business decisions. She stressed the importance of monitoring market activities in order to be educated buyers.

Antonio Aguilar said that Sturbridge is currently on a market responsive rate, and it is high because of the natural gas market. He noted that east of the Rockies, this had been an unusually cold winter. He said that New England is at the end of the pipelines, which has an impact on prices.

B. Greenblatt said that the solar program may be mitigated in three to five years, and there are proposed pipeline capacity extensions being evaluated, which would add additional capacity. She said that it is important not to have a "one size fits all" strategy. She would start with identifying a strategy, and would look at a mix of options to minimize risk. She noted that electricity will be the most expensive during the peak winter and summer months, and they will work to get the best price at the best terms.

B. Greenblatt said that the solar project, when operational, will produce about 50% of overall electricity needs, but it will go to National Grid, who will then give back credits.

S. Suhoski said that he was still waiting for a response from Town Counsel. He noted that prior to December 31st it will be necessary to plan the next power purchase.

Sturbridge Tourist Association Bylaw – Work Group

In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, S. Suhoski proposed the following composition of the working group for potential revisions to the STA bylaw:

- Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
- Member of Chamber's Tourism Committee
- Chairman of the STA
- Member of the STA
- Member of BOS
- Member of FinCom
- Town Planner (or Interim Town Administrator)

S. Suhoski proposed that the work group (like the short-lived casino task force) be established directly by the Town Administrator. He said that having the work group being able to meet and brainstorm ideas prior to presenting to the Board of Selectmen in an open meeting format will be more effective than having the BOS establish another public body.

Larry Morrison, 66 Old Farm Road, appeared before the Board. He said that Sturbridge is now in a crossroads and needs to decide whether it is a tourist community or whether it is a tourist attraction. He said that he has been a resident of Sturbridge for 41 years, and in 1973 he had organized the Sturbridge Tourist Association. He appeared before

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the Board as a resident only. He noted that in prior years, the STA was an informal group as an arm of the Chamber of Commerce, and members had to belong to the Chamber in order to take part. He said that there was special legislation that was passed on January 1, 1987 which set forth 67.5% of the funds that come from travel and tourism taxes going to the general fund; 16.5% of which go to betterment; 16.5% to the STA. He noted that this has nothing to do with the meals tax, which was voted in on October 17, 2009.

L. Morrison went on to point out the roles that the following businesses have played as contributors to tourism: Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge Yankee Workshop, Yankee Spirits and the Brimfield Flea Market.

L. Morrison said that the Sturbridge Tourist Association met at the Publick House and had conducted training where people were taught how to greet, make a sale, and how to help non-English speaking people, and it was conducted by the STA as a hospitality service. They made sure that political candidates knew about tourism. They invited the public to make donations during the Gulf War, and all of the material went to the troops. He noted that Sturbridge is a tourist community. He suggested that Massachusetts have an Americana trail.

Regarding the STA bylaw, S. Suhoski suggested that there be a working group. M. Blanchard said that she would be more comfortable having the Town Planner involved, rather than the Interim Town Administrator. That was the consensus of the Board.

MOTION: To appoint P. Gimas to the STA Work Group Committee, by C. Moran.

2nd: M. Redetzke

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

Appointment to Sturbridge Tourist Association

S. Suhoski informed the Board that Karrie Shiebler, the front office manager at the Host Hotel, had graciously agreed to volunteer for a post with the Sturbridge Tourist Association. She is very much aware that there will be a working group looking at potential improvements to the STA bylaw. Her appointment would assist with quorum concerns during the interim.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Karrie Schiebler to a hotel/motel representative seat on the Sturbridge Tourist Association for a term expiring in 2015, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

Brian Amedy, Chairman of the STA, thanked the Board for the appointment. He said that they are grateful for what Larry Morrison has done for the community.

Discussion re: Town Admin., Interim Town Admin. and Town Admin. Search Committee Appointments and Process

S. Suhoski said that the Board has scheduled a special meeting on July 28th on each of the above topics.

- Appoint the Board and Department Head members to the Town Administrator Search Committee
- Whether the Interim Town Administrator will be allowed to apply for the permanent position
- Whether the Board, or a subcommittee of two members, should review the Interim Town Admin. applications received to date and select two or three for interview on July 28th (the Board would still have the ability to bring forward additional candidates on August 4th if needed)

Since M. Dowling was absent, M. Blanchard requested that the Board wait until the next meeting for the Selectman nomination.

MOTION: To appoint Jean Bubon to the Town Administrator Search Committee based on all of her municipal experience and MPA from Clark University, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

M. Blanchard noted that there were 12 applications for Interim Town Administrator. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the interim applicants to apply for the permanent Town Administrator position.

M. Blanchard suggested scheduling a few interviews on July 28th, but the Board should not make a decision until all of the interviews have been conducted.

It was the consensus of the Board to interview candidates James Purcell, Richard Brown and Barry Brenner on July 28th.

Senior Municipal Service Program Appointments

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the Assessor's office has qualified the first group of applicants for the FY15 Senior Municipal Service Program. There are a maximum of 30 positions available at \$500 each towards tax abatement. The following represent positions #1 through #17:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Janet Rae-Sinanian	Town Clerk
Margaret Fox	Assessing Dept.
Diane Guyan	Assessing Dept.

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Louise Bonnette	Board of Health
Allen Butts	Board of Health
Madalyn Dion	Library
Sandra Buckner	Recreation Dept.
Therese Girouard	Recreation Dept.
Dolores Pelton	Recreation Dept.
Frances Clark	Senior Center / COA
Carol Corriveau	Senior Center / COA
Susan Fosskett	Senior Center / COA
Alexander Menafo	Senior Center / COA
Nancy Giroux	Senior Center / COA
Pauline Walsh	Senior Center / COA
Madeline Robideau (by Grace Repucci)	Senior Center / COA
Wayne Belles	Town Administrator / BOS

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen approve the above-listed individuals for participation in the FY15 Senior Municipal Service Program to be assigned to the indicated departments, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimás

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

Mountainbrook Road Drainage Improvements

S. Suhoski informed the Board that Town Counsel is finalizing the drainage easement for the Town associated with the Mountainbrook Road project. This document covers all properties subject to the private betterment assessment and allows the work to continue.

Raoul Ricard of the Mountainbrook Association appeared before the Board. He said that the Conservation Commission wanted to have proper drainage installed because of the runoff from the neighborhood. There was one additional property owner whose back lands (from New Boston Road) abut the project area and from whom a drainage easement is still required. S. Suhoski is working with Town Counsel to finalize that document so that the work can proceed.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen execute the order of taking for drainage easements within Mountainbrook Road, Beach Avenue and Long Avenue as detailed in the Order of Taking presented on July 21, 2014, with the exception of the property in question, by C. Moran.

2nd: P. Gimás

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

Worcester County Selectmen's Association

MOTION: That M. Redetzke be the voting member on the Worcester County Selectmen's Association, by M. Blanchard.

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2nd: P. Gimas

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

MOTION: That C. Moran be the alternate voting member on the Worcester County Selectmen's Association, by M. Blanchard.

2nd: P. Gimas

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

Board of Assessors – Classification Hearing

S. Suhoski said that the Board of Assessors would like to know if the Board of Selectmen will require a pre-classification hearing this year, which had been something that has been presented for the past few years as a prelude to the classification hearing. He noted that it is not required under Massachusetts General Laws, but rather a request on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. The information presented at both the pre-classification hearing and the classification hearing is the same.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold only one meeting on classification.

Change in Status for Firefighter Jason Kelly

S. Suhoski had received an email from Fire Chief David Zinther requesting a change in job classification for Jason Kelly, as he recently completed the required training and has received certification as an EMT-Basic. With this accomplishment, he is now eligible to receive an increase in his base pay rate.

MOTION: To change Jason Kelly's classification to Firefighter/EMT Basic with eligible increase as in the contract, by C. Moran.

2nd: M. Blanchard

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

Correspondence

M. Redetzke read the correspondence list into the record.

Other Meetings / Miscellaneous

Other items include: S. Suhoski conducted further negotiations with the Sturbridge Police Association and the Teamsters / Firefighters; attended Zoning Board meeting regarding variance for potential hotel; met with DPW Director and member of Trails Committee to finalize additional equipment purchases through extended tornado reclamation grant; attended final Legislative Affairs Committee and regional manager's meeting at CMRPC; worked on various fiscal year close-out items and personnel matters.

Old Business

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C. Moran asked about the status of Status Limousine. S. Suhoski said that the owner had paid all outstanding fees and picked up his license.

P. Gimas asked who is going to oversee the bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant when they come in. S. Suhoski said that Jim Masik of Pioneer Valley would receive the bids.

M. Redetzke said that there was a dock issue on South Pond. M. Blanchard said that a letter had been issued and she had read the newspaper article about the matter. Someone had sent an anonymous letter. S. Suhoski cannot enter anyone's property without permission. S. Suhoski said that he had copied the Board on the email. He asked the police to get some information.

New Business

P. Gimas asked about the contract for the Fire Chief. S. Suhoski said that the terms and conditions of the Fire Chief's employment were outlined in an appointment letter. He said that there has been some interest in possibly issuing employment agreements in the future.

Citizens' Forum

Barbara Search, Leadmine Road, appeared before the Board. She noticed that there was little evidence of local history, and there didn't seem to be anything out there for the public. She put together a walking tour of the Common which is available at the Library, the Publick House and the Sturbridge Host Hotel. The STA funded the printing of it, and it was professionally done. They were distributed during Memorial Day week. She would like to distributed them to the schools.

Collective Bargaining Items

S. Suhoski said that there are two items under collective bargaining relating to police and fire for discussion. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss them on August 4th.

MOTION: To adjourn, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Redetzke

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk	Date
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