

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of May 13, 2014

Chairman Thomas Boussy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectman John F. DePinto, Selectwoman Ann Marie O’Neill, Selectman Robert W. Sweeney, Selectman Frank Vallarelli, Town Administrator David Ragucci and Town Counsel William H. Solomon.

Senator Jason Lewis Quarterly Update

Jason Lewis gives his first update as the new State Senator. His first matter of business is a number of home rule petitions that were passed at Stoneham Fall Town Meeting. Two of them have now passed both House and Senate and now they are waiting for the Governor’s signature. The third we are still working to get across the goal line. Jason Lewis speaks about the transportation bond bill which is regarding a bunch of transportation projects. Regarding Chapter 90 the governor has approved to release 240 million dollars. Jason Lewis states we are the first to partner with the Boys and Girls Club and DCR for the taking over of the Hall Memorial Pool. We are in great shape and moving forward with this project. Mr. Lewis speaks about the Bikeway/Greenway funding is due to be released on Federal Fiscal Year 15. Another topic is the public safety issues at Ravine Road. He states the island was installed and seems to working out well. He states DCR has a second phase which they are coordinating with MWRA. They are expecting to be done with phase two by the end of the summer. Jason Lewis states there is an important meeting on Monday May 19th regarding Weiss Farm. Mr. Lewis discusses the budget process and that this will be his first year involved in the process. Mr. Lewis talks about Chapter 70. Jason Lewis explains that he agreed on local aid resolution and gives a lot more certainty in the budget process for the cities and towns. He speaks about the formula being reviewed and updated. Mr. Lewis speaks on Green Community and suggests that Stoneham should partner with this program where there a lot of grant money available. Also, Community Preservation Act is another that he encourages to partner with. Lastly, he speaks on active street certification which is part of the transportation bill. Selectman Vallarelli asks about the liquor license request. Selectman DePinto asks why Jason voted yes to end Chapter 70 discussion. Mr. Lewis states that was a misunderstanding. Selectman DePinto asks about gasoline tax being given to MBTA this year and that we will not get any of this money. Jason Lewis explains this is not true and explains where these taxes are going. Selectman Sweeney states the numbers to seem somewhat promising. Mr. Lewis states yes they are the economy is doing better. Selectwoman O’Neill asks about increasing MBTA public transportation. Mr. Lewis states that is something we will definitely look at. Town Administrator Ragucci asks Mr. Lewis what can be done regarding the deficit we have in regional schools budget. Mr. Lewis says there is nothing off the top of his head but he will look into other avenues. He suggests we continue to talk about it and he is committed to try to find a solution. Larry Means on Victoria Lane asks the Senator to vote against the Brewer Bill. Jason Lewis states he will consider that if/when he is presented with it.

Stoneham Strong 5K

David Poland was present explain his plans for the 2nd Annual Stoneham Strong 5K. The race will be held May 24 2014 at 9am kids run will begin and at 10am the adult run will begin. The race is open to the public and it is the same course as last year. David Poland informs the board the police details and portable potties are in place along with the necessary insurance. He would like to thank all the sponsors who are supporting the event. They are looking at 400 runners this year. Selectwoman O’Neill asks where can people register? Mr. Poland states it is available online 5K. Mr. Poland will be donating to SSAC and he is currently helping them build their website.

Fallon Road Design Review Discussion/Houghton

Attorney Charles Houghton was present to represent Fairfield Residential. They are here to update and get input from the Selectmen on the design review for the 298 units being proposed on Fallon Road. Kevin Maley goes over the design plan for this project.

Special Town Meeting Discussion/DePinto

Selectman DePinto is looking to fix an oversight that happened at the last Town Meeting for Article 12 that was not heard that night because of non advertising. Larry Means, 4 Victoria Lane states that his understanding is that the Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to call for a Special Town Meeting. Attorney Solomon states that the Board of Selectmen does have authority to call for a Special Town Meeting. Attorney Houghton speaks on behalf of Montvale Plaza and the Cleveland Family. Attorney Houghton distributes a letter that will be submitted to the Bike Path Committee that they are going to submit on Monday, May 19, 2014. If the Bike Path Committee agrees to the letter then they will submit the warrant article. If they don’t agree then they will not be submitting the article and they will vacate on June 30th. Selectwoman O’Neill asks about the survey being done with people on the bike path. Town Administrator states yes it can be done. Jim Sullivan 6 Sunset Road asks about a Special Town Meeting what if it defeated at Town Meeting are they prepared to vacate on June 30th. Attorney Houghton states yes. Liz Erk 13 Lincoln feels this is unacceptable and someone needs to be accountable for this error. Jim Prior 28 Valley Road states it was embarrassing waiting 3 hours and not being able to vote. Selectman DePinto made a motion to call for Special Town Meeting on June 19, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. and open the warrant on May 15, 2014 and close on May 22, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., seconded by Selectman Sweeney. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor

Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O’Neill
Selectman Sweeney
Selectman Vallarelli
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).

Approve Minutes

Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of April 22, 2014, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).** Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of May 5, 2014, seconded by Selectman Sweeney. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).** Selectman DePinto moved approval of the executive session minutes of April 22, 2014, and not to release them, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).**

Liquor Licensing Authority

Selectman DePinto moved to go into Liquor Licensing Authority and return as the Board of Selectman, seconded by Selectman Sweeney.

Voting in Favor:

Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O'Neill
Selectman Sweeney
Selectman Vallarelli
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).

**Meeting recessed at 8:51 p.m. to go into Liquor Licensing Authority.
Meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.**

Annual Appointments

Appoint Members to Committees

Board of Appeals

One appointment for a one-year term effective until 4/30/15

Selectman Sweeney moved to reappoint Nathaniel Cramer to the one (1) one-year term. Motion was seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (5-0).**

Conservation Commission

One appointment for three-year term effective until 4/30/15

Selectman Vallarelli moved to appoint Rachel Rennard from Associate Member to fill the existing vacant three-year term. Motion was seconded by Selectman DePinto and unanimously voted (5-0).

Appoint MAPC Representative

One appointment for a three-year term effective until 4/30/17.

Selectman DePinto moved to appoint Cynthia Mead to the (1) one three-year term. Motion was seconded by Selectman Sweeney and **unanimously voted (5-0).**

Discuss Membership of the Stoneham Center Project Advisory Committee/Town Administrator

Steve Winters Director talks about grant project and the schedule they are planning. Selectman Vallarelli and Chairman Boussy were both nominated and **unanimously voted (5-0).** The Town Administrator states we will advertise on Stoneham Website. Marcia Wengen asks if these will be meetings held under the open meeting law. Mr. Ragucci states yes.

Fill Vacancy of Retirement Board Member/Town Administrator

Mr. Ragucci directs the Board to advertise and appoint the Selectmen Designee to sit on the Retirement Board. The appointment should be put on the agenda and schedule the appointment for May 27th. Selectman DePinto would like to thank Cosmo for his service. Selectman Sweeney suggests giving a Certificate of Appreciation for the 27th meeting.

Arena Rental Discussion/Boussy

Chairman Boussy states that there looks like there was decision made to kick Matignon out and bring Melrose in and that decision was done. Chairman Boussy clarifies that within the Town Administrator act it was in Mr. Ragucci does have the authority to make such decision. Chairman Boussy states that the issue was brought up under miscellaneous correspondence at a meeting and there was a vote. A few members didn't feel there was enough information at that time to vote on the issue. Mr. Ragucci states that the Mayor had approached him months back inquiring on the availability of the Arena. Mr. Ragucci spoke with Lou the rink manager and asked if there was a way to squeeze Melrose in. Lou responded saying no. The option was to either to cut either Matignon or Austin Prep. Mr. Ragucci made the decision to cut Matignon based solely on financial expense of bus rides. Mr. Ragucci states as of now it stands Melrose is out and Matignon is in. Selectman DePinto and Selectman Sweeney are fine with that. Selectwoman O'Neill states this is the time to look at every entity in Stoneham and figure out if it is being used most efficiently for the people of Stoneham. Tim Albert the Athletic Director at Matignon was present to speak on behalf of Matignon. Lynda Allard 4 Evergreen Road agrees with Mr. Sweeney that it is going out of the area of expertise and why are we changing the Town Administrators recommendations. Jim Sullivan 6 Sunset Road state the board needs to reverse their decision and let Mr. Ragucci make his decision. He also agrees with Selectwoman O'Neill that we should be looking at this asset. Selectman DePinto speaks the history of Matignon and the Arena. Selectman Sweeney states he brought

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the topic up at the last meeting because to throw out a long term customer is wrong. Don Smith 8 Lincoln Street speaks on having a long term loyal customer goes a long way. James Hanlon Washington Street speaks on his thoughts of the Arena. John Lapiana Crosby Street speaks on behalf of Matignon he states that if they are getting rid of Matignon that they should give them proper notice. Paul Norton 14 South Marble Street speaks on behalf of Matignon Mark Wall, 46 Wright Street speaks on raising the rates for certain times. It doesn't work doing that. The customer history is what the decision should be based on. Cindy Hemingway 14 Fells Road speaks on the history of ice hockey in Melrose and says that Mayor Dolan is a great neighbor and they should be given a chance. Bill Weiss 36 Lafayette Street Wakefield speaks as a town employee working for the Arena and states that Matignon is a great tenant. He states that raising prices will make people leave. Liz Erk asks how can we get another rink. Mr. Ragucci says that it would have to be debt exclusion.

Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Ragucci states that the final trash RFP has been completed and will be on the website tomorrow and will be issued to the three finalists. Mr. Ragucci states that the Town signs that need to be updated should be completed by July 1st by Gamit Signs. Mr. Ragucci states that there is a request from the Disability Committee having office space in the Town Hall. Mr. Ragucci is asking to use the end office of the Selectmen's Office. He will set the times and days that they will be using the office. Mr. Ragucci states that the Fire Department is coming to the Selectmen's meeting on the 27th to give an update on his Department.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Selectwoman O'Neill asks the Town Administrator where we stand with the Electric Sign for Monday night's meeting. Mr. Ragucci states he is waiting to hear back from Clear Channel. Selectwoman O'Neill asks about the sandwich boards for Monday night's meeting. Mr. Ragucci states the sandwich boards are all set to be set up at the Town Hall, Senior Center and Library.

Executive Session

Selectman DePinto moved to go into executive session, pursuant to Chapter 30A Section 18 of the General Laws to discuss Areas Labor Negotiations (Police Grievances and Negotiations) and PEC regarding Health Insurance and not to return as the Board of Selectmen. Motion was seconded by Selectman Sweeney and was **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Voting in Favor:

Selectman DePinto
Selectman O'Neill
Selectwoman Sweeney
Selectman Vallarelli
Chairman Boussy

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Sinclair