

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting January 28, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Ruth Clay, MPH, Director/Alcohol, Tobacco Paraphernalia Discussion

Ruth Clay the Health Director for the City of Melrose, Town of Wakefield and Reading. She speaks on substance abuse prevention in Stoneham and surrounding communities. She speaks on grants available and what other cities and towns are doing to receive these grants. Ruth states that Stoneham is heading in the right direction with setting up the Substance Abuse Coalition. Stoneham needs to continue to build support from the community and get people involved.

Representative Jason Lewis Quarterly Update

State Representative Lewis wanted to say that Ruth and Maureen have excellent resources and suggests taking advantage of their expertise. Rep. Lewis states he is here to give an update on three issues. (1) Weiss Farm – Rep. Lewis is standing strong on his opposing position on this matter. He states that revisions have been submitted by Corcoran and Company and Rep. Lewis has responded to these revisions. He states that the revision does not address the significant concerns that have been raised by the community. (2) Home Rule Petitions there were three passed at Town Meeting. They are making good speedy progress thru state legislature. Two have been passed by the House. Last week the one to establish a special fund for trash was enacted and moved to Senate. This week the additional liquor licenses was passed by House and going to Senate. The lease proceeds for Railroad Right of Way is currently in third reading which is before House and should be passed by next week. Once they are passed in the House and Senate then they need to get signed by Governor. Chairman Sweeney asks once they are signed can they be implemented right away. Rep. Lewis answers yes. (3) Rep. Lewis would like to give an update on the State Budget. He states the economy is continuing to recover. There was a discussion on the Chapter 70 assessments.

Opening Warrant for 4/1/14 Annual Town Meeting and Set Warrant Closing Date

Selectman DePinto made motion to open the Annual Town Meeting on February 3, 2014 and close on February 24, 2014, seconded by Selectman Boussy. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).**

Update Railroad Right of Way/Anthony Wilson

Anthony Wilson speaks to give an update. He states one property has removed all the fill in accordance to the plan that was given in October. The property behind 21 Manison we have had to go back and forth and it looks like they are still short. Mr. Wilson said they just need to sit down and review together later this week or early next. Mr. Wilson doesn't see it to be a problem. There has been huge progress in a year on this project and wants to thank all of you for what you have done especially Mr. Solomon and Mr. Ragucci. The progress on the deed to purchase for \$1.00 has had great progress as well. There was a discussion on the assignment of rights and the home rule petition. Mr. Wilson says hopefully that will be approved by house and senate. Over the last year have met with a lot of groups throughout the town and he knows this is going to be a change within the town and he wants to make sure everyone understands and answer any questions that people may have about this coming to town. Mr. Wilson is looking forward to finishing up working with MBTA. He also states he wants to make sure we maintain funding from the State and that it gets reviewed every year. He requests that the Board join in on sending a letter of support when the tip process comes up in the spring. He would like to continue the outreach and work with MassDOT. Mr. Wilson states that the leases for the abutters along the Right of Way are expiring in June of 2014. This will be the next topic that needs to be discussed.

Railroad Right of Way Maple Street to Woburn Line - Assignment by MBTA to Town of Third Party

Lease(s)/Enforcement

Item was tabled till the next meeting when the documents are final. No action taken.

Railroad Right of Way Maple Street to Woburn Line - Deed Update and Vote(s) If Timely and Required

Item was tabled till the next meeting when the documents are final. No action taken.

Restrictions/Amendment of Deed to Allow for Town to Retain Revenues and Removal of Reverter Clause to MBTA for future

Item was tabled till the next meeting when the documents are final. No action taken.

Liquor Licensing Authority

Selectman DePinto moved to go into Liquor Licensing Authority and return as the Board of Selectman, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill.

Voting in Favor:

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

Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).

Meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m. to go into Liquor Licensing Authority.

Meeting reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

Approve Common Victualler License Renewals

Selectman DePinto moves approval of the following Common Victualler renewals contingent on all the paper being submitted: Anthony’s Italian Specialties/408 Main Street, seconded by Selectman Boussy. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).**

Approve Minutes

Selectman DePinto moves to accept minutes of 1/7/2014, seconded by Selectwoman O’Neill and **unanimously voted (5-0)**. Selectman Vallarelli moved to accept the minutes of 1/7/2014 of executive session minutes and not to release, seconded by Selectman Boussy and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

FY15 Budget/Town Administrator

Town Administrator Ragucci submitted his FY15 budget of \$68,633,440 to the Board of Selectmen for review. He is recommending funding the reserve fund in the amount of \$26,652. The Finance and Advisory Board recommended \$50,000 but with limited funds Mr. Ragucci could only fund \$26,652. Mr. Ragucci asks the Board to support an Economic/Community Development position and fund \$62,912. He recommends using the Fallon Road mitigation money will be used to fund that position. Mr. Ragucci recommends not funding the Police Departments need of three additional officers. Mr. Ragucci states that the School Department was looking for an increase of \$1,145,414 he recommends reducing that by \$545,000. Mr. Ragucci has a 5% increase for the Vocational School which he thinks may be low. Mr. Ragucci discusses reconstructing the Arena due to the loss of a long time employee. He is looking to fill an 18 hour support staff position and a full time Assistant Manager Position. Mr. Ragucci also states Rick Arzillo is retiring and this will allow us to look the operations of the Golf Course. He is recommending putting it under the DPW. Mr. Ragucci states in the debt maturing item there is \$117,000 reduction that reflect the fire engine we were supposed to purchase. We can not purchase a new one because the newer trucks will not fit in our station so we are waiting for Wakefield to purchase a new ladder truck and discuss refurbishing that one. The Health Insurance line item is always a big concern of ours it’s a guesstimate right now the rates will not be in until March. In general he feels this is a strong budget but lean. Selectman Boussy asks about island cleanup money. Mr. Ragucci states there has been \$40,000 put aside for this. There was a discussion held on how this money will be spent and how the island cleanup program will work. Selectman DePinto thinks the unfunded liability should be listed. Selectman DePinto states stabilization is not where it should be according to the Department of Revenue. Selectman DePinto asks if the Library will still get funded. Mr. Ragucci answers yes. Mr. Ragucci states this budget is a working document and there will changes as we move forward.

Town Administrator Reports

Selectman Boussy had a discussion regarding grants that are available for us that we are not applying for. Mr. Ragucci states that the Community Development person that we are adding this could be a part of their job. Mr. Ragucci gave an update on the Green Community process. Mr. Ragucci states the Trash Advisory Committee has been meeting and they will be submitting a recommendation to him and he will present to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Ragucci states regarding Weiss Farm the developer has submitted a new plan which made the buildings a little smaller but the significant issues have not been addressed. There still has been no outreach from the developer to this community. He states there have been letters sent requesting them to come and sit with us but that has not happened yet. We have asked the state to keep comment period open until February 26. Selectman Boussy states that we in a position of waiting but we are doing what we can right proactively right now. Selectwoman O’Neill states that there are resources we could be using and she has the names of these resources. Mr. Ragucci is interested in getting those names. Selectwoman O’Neill feels this is frustrating and feels that someone from MassHousing should be reaching out to us. Selectman Boussy states this is not smart growth. There was a discussion of having someone volunteer to put all the Weiss Farm information into layman’s terms. Jim Sullivan speaks and states that there was a committee setup at Town Meeting for this. Mr. Ragucci states that they can setup a monthly meeting to update where we are on this issue. Selectman DePinto suggests having an update meeting with Jon Witten at our next meeting. Attorney Solomon states that it is important that we express our opinion on how MassHousing this process has gone so far. He states we should let them know of our expectations of this process. Mr. Ragucci states that he invited someone from Economic Development from the State level to the February 4th meeting.

Miscellaneous

Selectman DePinto asks about the Veterans program for emergency housing. Mr. Ragucci states they are going to start addressing that. Selectman Boussy made a motion to use the RCN cable funds to implement the See Click Fix telecommunication service, seconded by Selectwoman O’Neill and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Executive Session

Selectman DePinto moved to go into executive session, pursuant to Chapter 30A of the General Laws to discuss Stockwell and not to return as the Board of Selectmen. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman O’Neill and was **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Voting in Favor:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sinclair