

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting September 24, 2013

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Second Hand Dealer License/125 Main Street

Lou Chorney states that he has a few businesses currently that he is operating and he is interested in opening up a business in Stoneham. Selectman Sweeney asks if this business would have the same practice as a pawn shop. Lou Chorney states that this is not the nature of his business. He states he buys and sells items of value. Selectman DePinto reads Chief James McIntyre’s recommendation. Selectman DePinto moves approval pending receipt of Certificate of Good Standing from Mass Department of Revenue, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Public Hearing/Grant of Location/Fieldstone, Rustic, Citation, Sparhawk/Verizon

Everett Bryan representative of Verizon explained what work Verizon is planning to perform. He stated they are interested in starting in the fall and be done by November. . Verizon has been in contact with Bob Grover and he has no objections. Chairman Sweeney opens public hearing. A Sparhawk resident questions that four years ago FIOS was installed and wants to know why this work is needed again. Mr. Bryan is proposing work on the area because this area of the neighborhood does not have service. Selectman Sweeney asks if Verizon is bonded with the Town. Mr. Bryan states yes they carry a bond of \$5,000-\$10,000. Stephen Sylvester, 28 Citation Avenue requests that there be more information on who is being impacted in their neighborhoods. Neil Grover, 23 Rustic Road wants to clarify that NStar was who cut up the road back years ago. We still have issues in the neighborhood and would like more plans to be available before this be approved. A Fieldstone Drive resident states that there was tree damage on his property the last time work was done. Mr. Bryan states the handholes are 10x3 or 10x2. A Fieldstone Drive requests an engineer is there to oversee the project. Chairman Sweeney’s recommendation is that when utility companies come for a grant of location they should meet with the neighborhood first and iron out all the details then come to us for approval. Mr. Bryan agreed to meet with the neighborhood before the next meeting to take care of the neighborhood concerns. Selectman Vallarelli moves to table until the October 8, 2013, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Petition to:

- Fieldstone Drive** Place approximately 287 feet of underground conduit
Place one (1) Handhole
- Rustic Lane** Place approximately 42 feet of underground conduit
- Citation Avenue** Place approximately 657 feet of underground conduit
Place two (2) Handholes
- Sparhawk Circle** Place approximately 118 feet of underground conduit

Selectman DePinto moves to move up agenda item #6 seconded by Selectman Boussy and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Senator Clark and Representative Lewis

Senator Clark speaks on budget and state aid also; she will speak on education funding. Senator Clark states that overall from 2011 to 2014 state aid has decreased 2.5%, Stoneham has 2.36% increase. She states the Chapter 70 formula has not been updated the way it should have from 1992 when it was set. She says that they are taking steps to rectify this. The other area is Special ED funding is funded fair for Stoneham. She speaks on Chapter 90 and states that the Governor has only released 200 million of the 300 million available. Stoneham has had a 23% increase since 2011. She states concern with the preliminary numbers that came out of the house. She feels there are inaccuracies which raised much deserved alarm with the Board of Selectmen. She says that Stoneham will have a net gain of about 17,000.00 this year. Representative Lewis states that the new Middle School is on track and making excellent progress. This project had a 57% reimbursement for Stoneham and just to compare Winchester is being reimbursed only 40% and Lexington is getting reimbursed 32%. The second project is Tri Community Greenway and Bikeway he believes this has significant potential for the town. It’s an opportunity for economic development. He wants to thank the Board of Selectmen for taking strong action to get this done. There is 5.4 million dollars in funding is coming from state and federal money which will start flowing one year from now. Most of the funding money will be invested in Stoneham. He would like to acknowledge the bike committee they are doing a great job. The third project is The Hall Memorial Pool which is under a new partnership between Boy and Girls Club and DCR it is the first of its kind in the State. Next summer the facility will reopen with new programs, swimming lessons, senior programs, disability programs, and private rentals. Another issue he would like to address is the safety and quality of life in neighborhoods which includes Ravine Road he would like to let you know that Phase I is completed and the neighborhood reports improvements. Phase II is scheduled to be done next spring. Also, Woodland Road improvements by DCR was moving forward but Friends of the Fells and City of Medford

filed a motion to stop the roadway improvements. A judge issued an injunction on that until early next year. Representative Lewis would like to acknowledge the new community art project that involves painting the utility boxes around town. He would like to thank Peg Drummey and Marcia Wengen for going to them with this project. He says that within a month they are going to receive a policy that will allow this to move forward. Representative Lewis wants to mention two other opportunities which are Green Communities Program there is about 110 communities participate currently. The town would have to run programs that include energy savings and if they meet the requirements the Town could be eligible for up to hundreds of thousands of dollars from State grant money. Also, the CPA was not supported by the voters in April. He urges the Board of Selectmen to reconsider. Selectman DePinto thanks the Senator and Representative for coming. He looks back to 2002 Chapter 70 was over 3 million and 2014 it is 585,000.00. Also, looking at bottom line numbers in 2002 Stoneham received over 7 million in State Aid and in 2014 we are getting 4 million dollars we have taken at 60% reduction and he wants to know why. Senator Clark would like to say the good news is overall a small increase in local aid, education funding, chapter 90 increase, Special Ed circuit breaker has increased in state aid. The vocational issue is a hot issue that comes up frequently along with Charter Schools. Larry Means asks how much will Stoneham get of the 5.4 million. Money is being used to build the entire 6 plus miles; it has not been split by towns. He asks if we stand to loose that money if we are not moving forward. Representative Lewis states that is possible. Selectman Boussy asks about the state land funding and how to increase that amount. Senator Clark is looking into the issue on the state lands that exist in Stoneham due to zoning changes there is no longer prime real estate in a lot of the state land. She is working with DOR right now to see how this lines up and what changes can be made. Representative Lewis states that the Town Administrator made a suggestion on working with DCR on composting. He says we need to put pen to paper to pursue that. Chairman Sweeney states the funding we receive for the state land doesn't cover the first responder services that Stoneham has to provide. Selectman Boussy asks if the park across from the zoo could be used for our sports. Representative Lewis will talk to DCR about this request. Mr. Sullivan from Sunset Road would like to see 40R smart zoning looked at. Selectwoman O'Neill would like to thank the Senator and Representative for coming and having an open dialog and she suggests them attending the Selectmen's meetings on a quarterly basis to come and discuss.

Chairman Sweeney calls for a 5 minute recess

Meeting was recessed at 8:32 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:39 p.m.

Request amount for Warrant Article/Historical Commission

Selectman Vallarelli moves to table item #4 till October 8, 2013, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (5-0).**

Approve Durgin Fund/Les Olson

Superintendent Les Olson presents the guidelines that will be used to determine the use of the Durgin Trust Fund. He states there is an annual issue with children who come to school without the funds to purchase lunch. They would like to apply for reimbursement to help this issue. Selectwoman O'Neill wonders if the fund could be used for sports fees or maybe school supplies would these be something things we could use with that money. The School Committee states that no family is turned away if they do not have the funds for sports. The School Committee states also that there are supplies available to the children that need assistance.

Public Hearing/Trash Discussion

Selectman Vallarelli makes a motion to take it off the table, seconded by Selectman Boussy. Town Administrator would like to inform the residents of the current trash program and the one we are looking to switch to. He explains that the switch is not a performance issue with Hiltz it is because our recycling is extremely poor. We are looking at this now because in 2015 our contract with Convanta which is the incinerator where our trash is burnt will be up. Right now Stoneham has the lowest rates. We do not know what our cost will be after the current contract expires. We do not want to wait for that contract to expire we need to make this change sooner than later. If we switch to the 48 gallon barrel system we will be capping our incinerator cost. We are trying to contain your cost or lower your cost and the way to do that is by increasing our recycling. Every community charges for large bulk items that are thrown out Stoneham needs to do the same. His suggestion is to allow two bulk items a year at no charge after that there should be a fee. We have a recycling coordinator who will be out there on a weekly basis to inform people on what they can recycle. The new recycling system will be picked up weekly along with trash. We have single stream recycling which means you do not have to separate your recycling items. He agrees that there should be a 6 month transition period. There will be recycling educational services provided to the community by the recycling coordinator and the new company that will be picking up the trash. Mr. Ragucci opened the conversation up to residents so they could ask questions and make comments on the new system. Selectman Boussy made a motion to drop the trash fee to \$200.00 on January 1, 2014,

seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (5-0)**. Chairman Sweeney asks where we stand with trash now. Selectman Boussy states that the Town Administrator will go into negotiations with JRM. Selectman Boussy made a motion to give authority to the Town Administrator to work with Attorney Solomon to negotiate a contact with JRM. Chairman Sweeney states that he and Selectman DePinto have not been presented with all the information to take a vote. Chairman Vallarelli states that we do not need a vote right now and to give them the information. Chairman Sweeney says that at next meeting we will take an intelligent decision.

Chairman DePinto calls for a 5 minute recess

Meeting was recessed at 10:55 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:00 p.m.

Stoneham Bike Greenway/Bike Committee/Anthony Wilson

Dolly Wilson speaks to update the Board from the last meeting. The three topics are the survey which they have bids which came in higher than expected and we are working on that, dates of removal and start date of removal. Mr. Rotondi has removed 30-40% of the fill however nothing has happened in the last week. Mr. Halchak has removed maybe a foot of fill not even in the area he agreed too when he met with the committee, Bill and David. She is requesting that they appear at the next Selectmen's meeting to give us a firm date or explain why they have not removed the fill they agreed too. Selectwoman O'Neill feels we should be driving the dates not them. Dolly states they have dates in mind to have the fill removed by 18th or 19th of October. Larry Means states that the fill on Rotondi's land was spread not removed. He wants to know if it is legal to take illegal fill and spread it around. Selectman Boussy made a motion to support requiring the abutters to remove from station 606 west down to level of tracks all the way to the tunnel at 93 (10 ft to the south of the southern rail all the way to station 606) by October 15th upon the survey the rest of the bikeway, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli and **unanimously voted (5-0)**. Dolly Wilson states she has been in contact with T on the transfer of the land.

Accept and Number Warrant Articles and Sign Warrant

Selectman Boussy moved to accept the articles as proposed #1-24 and sign the warrant, seconded by Selectman DePinto. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Sign State 5th Congressional Warrant

Selectman DePinto moved to execute the Warrant for the State 5th Congressional Warrant, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill. **Motion was unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Approve Minutes

Selectman DePinto moves to accept minutes of 9/10/2013, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (5-0)**. Selectman DePinto moved to accept the minutes of 9/10/2013 of executive session minutes and not to release, seconded by Selectman Boussy and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Town Counsel asks the Board if they would support him sending a thank you letter to Comcast. The Board supports this. Chairman Sweeney says there is a letter from James Sullivan requesting setting guidelines at Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Sweeney states they will take this under consideration and get back to him. Selectwoman O'Neill asks the Town Administrator about hanging the art at the Town Hall. There was a discussion on how and where to get the pieces of art and they will be hung. Selectman Vallarelli asked the Town Administrator where the medical marijuana stands. Mr. Ragucci states he will check with Ginny on this issue. Selectwoman O'Neill inquires on if there is time and space for the choirs to practice at the Town Hall.

Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Ragucci states that the golf course contract is expiring he is requesting two Selectmen to assist in the process on which direction the golf course will head. Selectman DePinto and Chairman Sweeney offered to sit on a committee to go over the options. Mr. Ragucci states he needs a Selectman to fill a seat on the Capital Committee. Selectman Vallarelli agreed to sit on the Capital Committee. Mr. Ragucci gives an update on Rec Park should be filled by next week. Mr. Ragucci says East School top lot is having a rededication ceremony being set by the School Committee. Mr. Ragucci says there will be huge crane in the middle of town of 411 Main Street. They need to do this to get the elevator shaft in place. This should only be four hours. Mr. Ragucci states that he received an email from the Attorney representing Weiss Farm looking to have a meeting Thursday which was inconvenient for our team and we asked them to suggest another date and their response was no. Mr. Ragucci just wanted to inform the Board that the developer is not working with us. Mr. Ragucci says the Chamber of Commerce is will to pickup the Stoneham Pride program and he has submitted the applications to the Board if anyone has changes or

would like to add to it to please let him know. Mr. Ragucci has agreed to post signs in downtown on Main Street from Lindenwood to Marble on Tuesday regarding street sweeping.

Selectman DePinto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Boussy.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sinclair