

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of December 11, 2012

Chairman Frank Vallarelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Thomas Boussy, Richard S. Gregorio, Robert W. Sweeney, Town Administrator David Ragucci and Town Counsel William H. Solomon. Selectman John F. DePinto was unable to attend.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointment Member to the Board of Health

Chairman Vallarelli opens joint meeting with Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health in order to appoint new member to Board of Health upon the resignation of Dan Doherty who served the community for a long time and we would like to thank Dan for all his years of service to the town. Chairman John Scullin would like to nominate Theresa Buckley Dean for the position to the Board of Health. Motion was seconded by Selectman Sweeney. Chairman Vallarelli would like to see if there are any other motions on the table for applicants seeing none the hearing was closed. A roll call was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Christine Carino
Chairman John Scullin
Selectman Sweeney
Selectman Boussy
Selectman Gregorio
Chairman Vallarelli

Chairman John Scullin motioned for the Board of Health to reconvene at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Board of Health. Motion was seconded by Christine Carino. **Motion was unanimously voted (6-0).**

Light Gazebo for Autism Awareness in April/Jeanne Craigie

Jeanne Craigie, 53 Dunklee Ave, Stoneham Co-Chairman of Light It Up Blue Stoneham asked the Board to support the lighting of the gazebo blue for the month of April 2013. Selectman Sweeney makes motion to support this. Motion was seconded by Selectman Gregorio. **Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).**

Selectman Gregorio would like to congratulate Jeanne on being inducted into the Northeast New Agenda Hall of Fame.

Eligibility Veterans Status/Sweeney

Selectman Sweeney states that people are questioning the eligibility on putting more names on the Veterans memorial outside the Town Hall. Jim Devlin the Veterans Agent says there are people that are eligible to be on the wall and are not. There are qualifications to be added to the wall. Mr. Devlin feels we should advertise that we are going to update the wall once we receive interest we can check their eligibility with the State. Mr. Devlin said his suggestion to advertise would be the Stoneham Independent and cable to advertise criteria. Selectman Sweeney says maybe Memorial Day or Veterans Day we could have a ceremony that day and invite the families of who is going to be added to the wall. Selectman Gregorio suggests an information table at town day. Selectman Vallarelli states that Mr. Devlin should coordinate with Dave on advertising.

No vote was needed.

Accept Donations for Holiday Party

Selectman Gregorio made a motion to accept holiday party donations. Motion was seconded by Selectman Boussy. **Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).** Selectman Sweeney asked to send them all thank you letters.

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries/Sweeney

Selectman Sweeney says that lately in the newspapers there has been a lot of cities and towns meeting with their planning boards to regulate areas for these dispensaries. He states he would like to see us get involved so we don't have a dispensary open up in the middle of the square. Is it zoning that we have to do? Selectman Boussy agrees and says to zone them into medical and away from schools and parks etc. The current zoning is on Cedar Street. Selectman Gregorio suggests Selectman Vallarelli put it on the January 8th agenda. Town Counsel says him and Town Administration will speak to the Planning Board.

No vote was needed.

Approve Minutes

Selectman Sweeney moved approval of the minutes from November 13, 2012, seconded by Selectman Gregorio. **Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).**

Approve Meeting Schedule for 2013 (A)

No vote was needed.

Recycling Discussion/Selectman Boussy

Selectman Boussy says that this morning he and Bob Grover met with Hiltz. Selectman Boussy says the recycling flyers that were sent out definitely got people talking but he says there should've been more available information on the website. Hiltz said we are heading in the right direction. There is a recycling grant that has money left from years ago and maybe looking at a 10 hr 15 hr position for a recycling coordinator. Hiltz gave information that we are going to get up on website. Selectman Gregorio says have that flyer blown up on poster board for next town meeting so people can see it when they walk in. Selectman Sweeney get recycling stickers out in the public more have them at the hardware stores available at the skating rink. Chairman Vallarelli says the things on flyer were not clear but we need to clarify that we are not giving away barrels just the stickers are free.

No vote was needed.

Website, Facebook, Twitter Discussion/Selectman Boussy

Selectman Boussy and Selectman Gregorio met with Town Administrator Dave Ragucci a month ago and discussed the need to update website and we both felt it's a good idea to have a Facebook and Twitter account. Tom Ciatelli met with Virtual Town Hall today and the actual cost of refreshing the website to something modern is about \$1500.00. They have a new open source program which is an additional of \$1700.00 that would give each department their own user and content flows through website and a lot more flexibility and it browser based. We can reduce cost of support and we would save \$700.00-\$1000.00 in support costs. I am going to push forward on website component before expanding out to facebook and twitter. Selectman Gregorio asks if there is a citizen portal available and Tom Ciatelli says yes it is included. Selectman Boussy made a motion to authorize \$4000.00 from RCN telecommunication funding for town website, motion was seconded by Selectman Gregorio. **Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).**

Selectman Gregorio says if a sub-committee is needed him and Selectman Boussy would be interested.

Miscellaneous

Chairman Vallarelli says the Senior Christmas Party was a great time as usual. We have received thank you letter stating people has a great time. There were 330 seniors and 40 volunteers. Thank you to Marty and the Murphy Family for all their generosity.

Selectman Sweeney a woman called about the MWRA doing test pouring near high street. The neighbors are concerned if there is going to be blasting. Selectman Sweeney spoke to Town Administrator Dave Ragucci and the neighbors or whoever is interested in town would like public information update on MWRA plan and a timeline on when they are going to be doing the work. Selectman Sweeney states that we don't have too much control on what is going on down there. There is a community relations manager from MWRA who is down there talking to neighbors but he is talking to them individually. Selectman Sweeney said after the holidays we can set a meeting regarding this issue. Advertise on cable maybe do a neighborhood drop or something. Lady would be happy to spread the word around.

Selectman Gregorio says that a resident off of North Street is inquiring again about getting gas lines run. Selectman Gregorio request that the Town Administrator follow up on that. Chairman Vallarelli asked if they responded. Town Administrator Ragucci said they have not responded but they have done a couple in towns recently. Town Administrator Ragucci will look into again before the next meeting.

Selectman Sweeney says Ravine Road was turned back to two way. Selectman Sweeney met with the Commissioner and got a commitment from him that he was going to put some sort of Buffer Island on the resident side of Ravine Road. Neighbors are requesting if they can plant shrubs, flowers and they would take care of it. Commissioner agreed to it and Selectman Sweeney said it seems to not be the outcome we wanted but hopefully will keep our neighbors safe and speeding down. Commissioner seems sincere with his commitment to that area. Selectman Sweeney says Town Administrator Ragucci and Town Counsel Solomon did a great job sticking up for the neighborhood. Town Administrator Ragucci says that in the spring are considering a T intersection should take place on Ravine Road. Chairman Vallarelli wants to thank to all three for all your help on this issue.

Town Counsel William Solomon asks for revised deeds for residential lots at North School to be signed.

TA Reports

Town Administrator Ragucci has had a number of discussions with the Chamber of Commerce on the skating rink and we have not been able to come up with a plan that would work for everyone involved. They would like to have a better plan in place and try again for next year.

Request the Board hold a Bi-Board meeting to accept the new version of our fiscal guidelines as well as an updated version of our budget agreement for January 8th meeting.
Then to be accepted at the January 22nd meeting.

Town Administrator Ragucci says he was contacted by the Retirement Board stating that next years retirement unfunded liability will be going up \$600,000. He is meeting with retirement board next week to try to reduce that amount for FY 2014. Selectman Gregorio says historically 10 yr period the retirement has gone from 400,000 allocation a year to 1.6 million if that escalation continues we really will have no services. Town Administrator Ragucci says we will avoid cuts at all costs.

Town Administrator Ragucci talks about the future of the Oaks Golf Course. The trend is downward. The costs to maintain are increasing. He would like maybe at the January 8th meeting have a discussion of the future of Stoneham Oaks. If we decide to do something with oaks the golfers could go to unicorn. Selectman Sweeney says if we are going to be looking at cuts having two golf courses is a luxury we need to look at alternatives. Selectman Gregorio totally supports that idea. Chairman Vallarelli does that \$80,000 cover the expense up there? Ragucci states it doesn't. Sweeney adds this doesn't include personnel so the town is losing money at the Oaks. Town Administrator says starting December 17th Oaks will be closing but open for gift certificates and have them available.

Holiday parking has been suspended and we will not be enforcing the two hour parking by law till after new years. This doesn't mean we will not be tagging violations of safety violations.

Overlay account that the town sets aside for abatement, exemption, etc. The Assessors wanted to get 1.5 percent of all of the revenues geared to the overlay account. Both Ron and Ragucci met with the Assessors and they were very accommodating and they agreed to 1.1 percent of revenue that we could commit to the overlay with the understanding the expenses they have now they are willing to absorb those costs. Selectman Gregorio suggests a town planner to help fill the vacant spaces in town.

Town Administrator Ragucci wants to say thank you to Nstar for giving 900 energy saving lights free of charge for the Town Hall, Senior Center, Police and Library.

Selectman Sweeney says he read that the Attorney General won an 18 million dollar settlement against Nstar for their response on Hurricane Irene. Does that 18 million get sent to cities and towns that had expenses due to the hurricane or do they keep it? Town Counsel will look into it and contact the Attorney General's Office.

Executive Session

Selectman Sweeney motions to go into Executive Session and to not return, seconded by Selectman Gregorio. Town Counsel adds for purpose of grievance, collective bargaining, union issues. Roll call was taken.

Voting in favor:

Selectman Sweeney
Selectman Boussy
Selectman Gregorio
Chairman Vallarelli

Motion was unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sinclair