

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 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, Town Administrator David Ragucci and Town Counsel William H. Solomon. Selectman Frank Vallarelli was not present. Selectman Sweeney left the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Accountant Update

Town Accountant Ron Florino was present to give an update on the staffing, duties and responsibilities of the Accounting Department. Mr. Florino stated his goals for the Town are to stay current with reconciliations to produce the most accurate financial information that's heavily relied on for decision making, fund capital needs without impacting operating budgets, strive to achieve the highest possible bond rating in order to lower borrowing costs for the Town, keep debt at a minimum and build reserves so the Stoneham can "weather any storm" whether it be an unexpected reduction in State Aid or a sudden spike in health insurance costs or another recession. The goal is to put Stoneham in a financial position that will prevent laying off employees or cutting services such as education or public safety especially during tough times. Chairman Boussy wants to discuss a more about detailed line item budget. Mr. Florino states that what the Board currently gets for reports is what prior Boards have requested. Mr. Florino also states if this Board would like to receive a more detailed report monthly he can produce that for them. Mr. Florino states that having an internship would be a great idea to help produce this extra work. Selectman Sweeney states Ron is doing a great job. Selectmen DePinto states that the recommendations from the outside auditor reports were too many pages when he first got on the Board and now he says they are way down and that is due to the Accounting Department, Town Administrator's Office and the Department Heads doing an efficient job. Mr. Florino informs the Board that he is looking to retire in the beginning of 2016 and it would be a good idea to sit and discuss how they want to go about training someone. They agreed to meet after Town Meeting and address this.

Discussion on Recommendations from the Capital Committee

Chairman Boussy asks Mr. Ragucci to explain the Capital Committee wish list and how to move forward to reduce this list. Mr. Ragucci explains how this list is compiled and how they prioritize this list. Mr. Ragucci will present the Board with the needs at the October 7, 2014 Selectmen's Meeting.

Public Hearing/Approve Grant of Location/6 Bow Street/National Grid

Selectman Sweeney states he spoke with National Grid and requested that National Grid meet with the neighborhood before coming to the Board of Selectmen. He also stated the homeowner requesting the gas service is unable to attend tonight. Selectman Sweeney states that National Grid and the homeowner agreed to continue to October 7, 2014. Chairman Boussy asks about us requiring the utility companies to be bonded so our streets will be put back in satisfactory condition. Attorney Solomon states he will look into that but he thinks we are covered through the bond the companies hold with the Commonwealth.

Continued Amended Site Plan Hearing/Montvale Plaza/Houghton

Selectman Sweeney read the Notice of Hearing. Attorney Charles F. Houghton was present to represent KMJSS Realty Trust d/b/a Montvale Plaza., to amend the site plan approval of Martin L. Murphy, Trustee of KMJSS Realty Trust d/b/a Montvale Plaza dated 05/18/04 to change off-site parking to StonehamBank's lower parking lot at 68 Montvale Avenue for 46 parking spaces from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. On August 6, 2014 Montvale Plaza obtained a Special Permit from the Planning Board pursuant to Section 4.8.3.5 of the Zoning By-laws. Selectmen DePinto read Department Recommendations – Attorney Charles F. Houghton agrees with all DPW Engineering, Police Department, Board of Health, Fire Department and Inspectional Services. Chairman Boussy opened the hearing to the public. Selectman DePinto closes public hearing,

seconded by Selectman Sweeney. Selectman DePinto made motion to approve amended site plan, seconded by Selectman Sweeney. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O'Neill
Selectman Sweeney
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).

Discussion to sponsor Fallon Road Articles/Houghton

Attorney Charles Houghton was present to discuss with the Board of Selectmen being in favor of sponsoring the Fallon Road Articles he submitted for the October Town Meeting. Mr. Houghton gave an explanation of the area. Selectman Sweeney made a motion to accept the four (4) articles with the understanding that that does not mean they support it and that Council has agreed to commit to sit with the Town and address issues on infrastructure, development and costs before Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (4-0)**. Selectman DePinto volunteered to follow through looking at this project. Dolly Wilson Central Street asks if this space considered open space and will the north entrance to the Middlesex Fells be affected. Attorney Houghton states the entrance will not be affected and the land is not open space. Jim Sullivan 6 Sunset speaks on his concerns regarding the pumping station being a capital improvement and Mr. Ragucci clarifies this is not a capital improvement issue. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O'Neill
Selectman Sweeney
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).

Senator Jason Lewis Update

Senator Jason Lewis was present to discuss the following important topics.

- * State did pass FY State Budget which began July 1st. There was approximate 5.4% increase in Chapter 70 funding. Also there was an approximate \$90,000.00 increase in unrestricted local aid. He stated that the Circuit Breaker is fully funded for the first time in quite some time. Mr. Lewis states that he is working on increasing the Chapter 70 funding and working on the formula on Chapter 70.
- * They also passed a transportation bond bill. He states that he was able to include air marks for Stoneham 2 million dollars for local transportation projects.
- * Continued work to support Stone Zoo. He states they were able to increase the operating money and also were able to include Zoo New England in funding in an environmental bond bill.
- * Stoneham Middle School which is a great asset to community. He has heard great things from parents and children. Stoneham has a 57% rate reimbursement from the state on this project.
- * Hall Memorial Pool was taken over by DCR and Stoneham Boys and Girls Club. Executive Director Jerry DeViller and their Board really stepped up with DCR. This was the first summer operating and they exceeded their expectations (150 a day was expected and they ended up with 30 a day on average). This is before some of their new programs were in place such as programs for seniors.
- * Tri Community Greenway and Bikeway he states the good news is Oct 1st the construction money will flow to start this project which is 5.4 million dollars in State and Federal funding. He states that are working out a 99 year lease for a portion of that and

Right of ways that need to be secured all towns are working on doing this. It is expected that the project will go out to bid in the spring.

* Ravine Road public safety issue has finally be solved.

* Update on home rules that town meeting had passed. He states we are batting 2 for 3. It is the home rule regarding the 5 additional liquor licenses. This has been challenging the House and the Senate have been going back and forth on some technical language at not fault of the Town. Mr. Lewis states he should have an update on Thursday.

* New opportunity which is called Active Street Certification Program. This relates to towns having a complete streets program. MassDOT is setting up a pilot program with 5 million dollars for initial grants. If Stoneham is interested we can work on this. We can work towards certifying Stoneham as an Active Streets Community.

* OPEB reform is a major fiscal challenge for all cities, towns and state government. Mr. Lewis is named Chair of Public Service Committee he is expecting this to be a high priority in the State Legislature.

* Two events Mr. Lewis is sponsoring in the 5th Middlesex Senate District: Tomorrow night there is a forum on school funding at Wakefield High School at 6:30pm and the second event is the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition Regional Forum for opiate abuse on October 23rd at 7pm at Reading High School.

Chairman Boussy asks Senator Lewis to elaborate on the OPEB reform. Chairman Boussy asks to discuss the increase from Essex Agricultural School. Mr. Ragucci asks if there is a way to control the approval process to these regional schools to contain these increased costs. Chairman Boussy would like Mr. Lewis to elaborate on the Active Street Certification Program. Mr. Lewis states that they are waiting on guidelines from the piolet program. This will be a model after the Green Community Program and we have to take certain steps to show commitment. Attorney Solomon brings up the liquor licenses being held up between the House and Senate. Mr. Lewis is convinced this issue will be resolved.

Appointments to Committees

Historical Commission

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

Selectman DePinto moved to appoint Alec Poitzsch to the (1) one one-year alternate member term. Motion was seconded by Selectman Sweeney and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Cultural Council

One appointment for a three-year term effective until 9/30/17

Selectman DePinto moved to appoint Ann McPherson to the (1) one three-year term. Motion was seconded by Selectman Sweeney and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Request for Site Plan Extension/11 Emerson Street/Wayne Kearney

Wayne Kearney, 20 Middle Street was present. Selectman DePinto moved to grant a two-year extension to Wayne Kearney for the site plan for 11 Emerson Street, pending this request has followed the new by-laws, seconded by Selectman Sweeney. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O'Neill
Selectman Sweeney
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).

Discussion of Affidavit by Rick Amato

Selectman DePinto would like Mr. Ragucci to ask the Auditors to look at the Golf Course. Mr. Ragucci states that they did it last year and there were no problems found and he will forward the report. Mr. Means asked why he was told to be at the meeting. Attorney Solomon stated that it was a courtesy to Mr. Means since his name was mentioned in the affidavit.

Discussion on Food Truck/Boussy

Attorney Solomon suggests putting in a simple bylaw warrant article that states food trucks are allowed in Town. The food trucks will also need to be licensed in town. Attorney Solomon will draw up regulations to go along with the bylaw change for the next meeting. Selectman DePinto made a motion for Attorney Solomon to move forward, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill **and unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Approve Minutes

Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of September 9, 2014, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (3-0-1)**. Selectwoman O'Neill abstained. Selectman DePinto moved approval of the Bi-Board meeting minutes of September 11, 2014, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill. **Motion was unanimously voted (3-0-1)**. Selectman Sweeney abstained.

Island Discussion

Larry Rotondi Constitution Road was present to discuss his opinion is on how the Island Beautification Program budget was spent and how the project look currently.

Selectman Sweeney left at 10:25 p.m.

Designation of Special Municipal Employee/Counsel Blaesser, Robinson & Cole/Town Counsel

Selectman DePinto made a motion to designate Blaesser, Robinson & Cole as a Special Municipal Employee, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Discussion on Potential TM Warrant Articles (Preliminary Discussion)

Selectwoman O'Neill made a motion to present the Façade Article at Town Meeting, seconded by DePinto and **unanimously voted (3-0)**. Marcia Wengen Washington Street requested the Historical Commission be a part of the buildings in town 50 years or older. Attorney Solomon suggesting adding the Historical Commission in the motion. The Board agrees. Selectwoman O'Neill made a motion to present the Farmers Market Article in the amount of \$2,500.00 at Town meeting, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (3-0)**. Selectwoman O'Neill made a motion to present the Alcoholic Beverage License Articles at Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (3-0)**. Selectman DePinto made a motion to present the Water & Sewer Article, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (3-0)**.

Town Administrator

Mr. Ragucci informs the Board that at the last Open Space meeting is was discussed on how we should attract people to the Oaks. Mr. Ragucci reached out to the YMCA and they are interested in running a youth golf league. Mr. Ragucci states that the MWRA pipe line through town is under discussion and he would like to invite the MWRA to the October 21st meeting. Mr. Ragucci states that the Mayor of Woburn invited him to go to Woburn City Hall and have a conference call with the Gelatin. He states that if any selectmen would like to attend they are welcome.

Selectman DePinto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (3-0)**.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sinclair