

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2015

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, and Town Administrator David Ragucci. Town Counsel William H. Solomon arrived at 7:28 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Sweeney asked for everyone to join in a moment of silence for our lost Firefighter Eric Bernat who passed away at age 41. He was on the Fire Department for about 12 years and his wake is Thursday and Friday 4-8 at Barile Funeral Home.

Town Planner Update/Erin Wortman

Town Planner Erin Wortman was present to discuss the following: Stoneham Commercial Improvement Program, Stoneham Center Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Tri-Community Greenway, TIF Process and Miscellaneous items such as supporting the Farmers Market Committee pursuant to Article 12, ongoing discussions with the State on Green Communities program and met with the Open Space & Recreation Committee about assistance with updating the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Chairman Boussy states she has been hard at it since she got here and has gotten a lot accomplished in a short amount of time. Selectman Vallarelli states Erin is doing a great job from what he hears. Chairman Boussy everyone is excited about her and everyone has nothing but positive things to say.

Fallon Road Update/Attorney Houghton

Attorney Charles Houghton was present to represent the owner of the property which is Richard Companies and the developer which is Fairfield Housing to give an update on the Fallon Road Development. Attorney Houghton states that the w/s connection fees have been resolved. They have received approval from MassDOT. Attorney Houghton states he hopes to get the building permit late April which is in round numbers about \$680,000. He states that will trigger the first payment of the mitigation money which is \$900,000. He states that they are again in front of Conservation for the Fallon Road portion. They need an order of conditions for the pavement improvement that is part of the mitigation agreement. He states they are also doing improvements to North Border Road. Mr. Ragucci explains that the \$680,000 will help us with the snow & ice deficit. Jason R. Plourde, P.E., from Tighe & Bond gave a presentation on the traffic changes that will be made. He states that both MassDOT and DCR are satisfied. Mr. Plourde states he is expecting a permit to start in June. Selectwoman O'Neill asks if there is a bike lane included. Mr. Plourde states there are no other bike lanes to tie into. He states they worked with DCR and have committed to construct a sidewalk along North Border Road that will tie into Fallon Road. Selectwoman O'Neill asks if that includes granite curbing. Mr. Plourde states yes. Selectwoman O'Neill asks if the new sidewalk is going from the new development to the pool. Mr. Plourde states yes. Selectwoman O'Neill asks who is going to maintain the green space. Mr. Plourde states that is under MassDOT jurisdiction. Selectwoman O'Neill asks what is going there. Mr. Plourde states that will be in the 75%-100% design. Mr. Plourde states most likely it will be green. Selectman Sweeney asks if they should send a letter recommending that it is green. Mr. Plourde states that would not hurt. Chairman Boussy clarifies it would be MassDOT's responsibility to maintain. Selectman DePinto during construction how will this impact traffic. Mr. Plourde states there will be Mass State Police Details. Mr. Plourde states there are still some unknowns that will be worked out in the 75%-100% plan submission.

Woburn, Wakefield Electric Transmission Line Project

William Zamparelli and Beverly Schultz from Eversource gave a presentation on the installation of the Woburn to Wakefield 345-kv Line Project. Mr. Zamparelli states he has been working closely with David Ragucci and Robert Grover to identify a potential route. The route starts at Horn Pond and proceeds through Winchester, Woburn then jumps on the Bikepath area (ROW) in Stoneham then proceeds to Wakefield and ends at the Substation on Montrose Avenue. There will be a series of open houses to explain this project to the public. They have met with MassDOT, MWRA, MBTA and she does see them need to file with NEPA on this project. This project is approximately 8.02 miles through Woburn (1.64 mi), Winchester (1.17 mi), Stoneham (1.78 mi) and Wakefield (3.43 mi). In Stoneham significant portions of preferred route is proposed in inactive rail bed. Eversource is working with the Tri-Community greenway project team. There is an estimated \$107 million infrastructure investment and an estimated \$420,000 tax revenue first year after in service (2019). Eversource is working closely with the town in planning and construction phases. Stoneham Public Open House is scheduled for April 28th from 5-7 in the Town Hall. The next steps will be solicit town input regarding proposed project and potential routes, conduct an open house to gather community input, file an application with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (after filing EFSB conducts a local public hearing) and EFSB issues its decision (if approved, construction can begin on the Project). The estimated start of construction is 2nd quarter of 2015 and estimated project in service date 2018. The local level process is Conservation Commissions: WPA Determination of Applicability/Order of Conditions/Certificate of Compliance. A Grant of Location from the Board of Selectmen and DPW for street opening permits. There was a discussion on the route that was chosen for this project and how this route will affect the Bikepath and the residents of Stoneham. The Board made a decision that they would like a meeting that involves some of the Selectmen, Mr. Ragucci, Mr. Grover and Eversource to discuss alternate routes. Eversource will reach out to the Selectmen to setup a meeting.

Review FY16 Budget/Town Administrator

Town Administrator Ragucci states things have changed for the better such as Local Aid will be increased by \$172,000. He states that could change when the house weighs in on local aid numbers. He states health insurance we were expecting a 9% increase but it came in at 7.2%. Mr. Ragucci now recommends taking \$150,000 from stabilization now that these numbers are in. Mr. Ragucci states the assessments went down a little bit. Mr. Ragucci will forward the changes off to the Finance & Advisory Board. Selectwoman O'Neill asks Mr. Ragucci where the enterprise funds show up. She asks if they are in the estimate water/sewer receipts. Mr. Ragucci states yes. Chairman Boussy asks where do you see rink or golf course numbers. Mr. Ragucci states in local receipts. Mr. Ragucci states he can provide the Board with Profit and Loss Statements. Chairman Boussy asks about the Selectmen and Finance & Advisory Board being able to access Munis. He asked about having a training. Mr.

Ragucci states he can look into this. Selectwoman O'Neill asks about assessments for the schools. Mr. Ragucci states those numbers should be in by April based on enrollment. Mr. Ragucci states this is still a draft and work in progress. Selectman DePinto made a motion to accept the changes to the budget, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill **and unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Accept Donation for Snow Removal

Selectman Sweeney made a motion to accept donation for snow removal and to send a Thank You, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli **and unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Approve Minutes

Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of March 3, 2015, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli and **unanimously voted (5-0)**. Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve executive session minutes of March 3, 2015 and not to release, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli **and unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Article Recommendations for May Town Meeting

Article #5 – Selectwoman O'Neill states that they should notify the residents since the petition was not signed by residents in the area. Chairman Boussy asks that the neighbors be notified. Article #16 – The board states they would like to go forward with this article. Mr. Ragucci states he reached out to Melrose to setup a meeting with Selectman DePinto, Mr. Ragucci and Attorney Solomon to go through the RFP and the process.

Liquor Licensing Authority

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

Voting in Favor:

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

Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).

Meeting recessed at 9:05 p.m. to go into Liquor Licensing Authority.

Meeting reconvened at 9:06 p.m.

Stockwell Fund

Selectman DePinto and Selectwoman O'Neill requested Attorney Solomon review the quarterly reports and see why payments are being made to charitable grants, administrative, VNA, Boston Medical etc. Attorney Solomon states he is writing a letter to Mellon Bank. Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve the 3 Stockwell requests, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Town Administrator

Mr. Ragucci updated the Board on PEC negotiations. Mr. Ragucci saying regarding the temporary easements he will be meeting the State of Massachusetts to talk about the temporary easement at that point they can begin to negotiate. MWRA has scheduled a meeting on April 21st as a public information meeting about the pipeline coming into town.

Mr. Ragucci states the Substance Abuse Coalition has been working extremely hard. We now have a Youth Coalition and they would like to use the Arena for a youth event during April vacation. Mr. Ragucci states he is donating the use of the Arena. Mr. Ragucci states that everyone is invited to the event. Selectwoman O'Neill states this is a fun fundraiser to get the group off the ground. Mr. Ragucci states that Governor Baker released \$72,925 for pothole repairs. He hopes to submit a schedule for street and sidewalk repairs for this year at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Selectman Vallarelli asks if anyone has an update on Conservation Commission Fallon Road meeting. Conservation Commission was doing a site visit and continued to April 9th. Selectman Sweeney asks about the email from Michael Day regarding the Zoo. Chairman Boussy states all we had to do was sign it. Chairman Boussy would like to say this could be his last meeting and he thoroughly enjoyed serving the town and hope he left it in a better place than he found out. Most importantly please get out and vote on April 7, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Sinclair