

**Board of Selectmen  
April 3, 2023  
Town Hall  
Veteran's Memorial Hall, Town Hall  
308 Main Street, Sturbridge**

This meeting is available online at:

<https://sturbridge.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=4e4190ad-f886-4add-a87d-24248c412354>

**Present:**

Mary Blanchard, Chair  
Chase Kaitbenski, Vice Chair  
Selectman Ian Dunnigan  
Selectman Jamie Goodwin

**Absent:**

Mary Dowling, Clerk

**Staff:**

Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator  
Michelle Garman, Executive Assistant

**Chair Blanchard called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Moment of Silence for all those suffering from natural disasters.

**Chair Blanchard read the agenda.**

**Public Service Announcements**

The Board thanked Selectman Ian Dunnigan for his years of service

**Public Hearing** – National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install one (1) JO Pole on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 40' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Putnam Rd & Podunk Rd. Installation of new P91-50; starting approximately ~111' northeast of existing P92 Podunk Rd. National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways.

**Motion: To close public hearing**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

**Motion: To approve National Grid to install one (1) JO Pole on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 40' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Putnam Rd & Podunk Rd. Installation of new P91-50; starting approximately ~111' northeast of existing P92 Podunk Rd. National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

**Town Administrator Update–**

Department of Fish and Game sent a letter notifyin the Board they were consideration the purchase of land, she notified all departments that may have an interest and they were all in support. Both Planning and Conservation approved as well.

**Motion: To authorize the Town Administrate to send a letter in support of the land purchase by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

Youth Football – Administrator Grimm was approached regarding the youth football jubilee coming to Sturbridge, they will need to use the high school fields. Administrator Grimm is requesting the Board to authorize her to write a letter of support of the jubilee.

Vice Chair Kaitbenski indicated Sturbridge has never been picked for this and this event generates \$35,000.00 for youth football. This event is also for the cheerleaders and it would be a shame if Sturbridge missed out on this opportunity.

Chair Blanchard feels it's good for the Town in general. Hotels, food, etc.

**Motion: To authorize a letter in support of the youth football jabliee.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

**Action Items:**

- A. Consideration and possible action to authorize the Chair to execute the contract with McClure Engineering, Inc., for the Maple Street Water Line Replacement.

**Motion: To approve the Chair to execute the contract with McClure Engineering, Inc., for the Maple Street Water Line Replacement.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

- B. Consideration and possible action to authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Tom Irwin Advisors, Inc., for the Field Soil Evaluation and Maintenance Plan Development.

**Motion: To authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Tom Irwin Advisors, Inc., for the Field Soil Evaluation and Maintenance Plan Development.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

- C. Consideration and possible action on the fee proposal from Construction Monitoring Service, Inc., for the Town-wide Communication s Project.

**Motion: To approve the fee proposal from Construction Monitoring Service, Inc., for the Town-wide Communication s Project not to exceed \$20,000.00**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Chase**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

- D. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Alex McConnon to the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Alex McConnon to the Sturbridge Tourist Association.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

- E. Consideration and possible action on the Charter Review Committee Recommendations for revisions to the Town Charter.

No action taken – The Board of Selectmen would like more time to review the proposed changes.

- F. Consideration and possible action to accept the resignation letter from Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr., from the ARPA Sub Committee.

**Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr., from the ARPA Sub Committee with thanks.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

**Motion: To amend the previous motion designating the ARPA sub-committee at six members to now consist of five members.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

G. Consideration and possible action on recreation building repairs from vandalism in the amount of \$3,500.00.

No action take – hold until next ARPA meeting

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Correspondence**

**Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2023**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of 3/6/2023**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dowling Absent)**

**Citizen's Forum**

**Executive Session – Per M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Police Union if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the chair so declares.**

**Motion: To enter executive session and not to reconvene in open session.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: Mary Blanchard – Yes, Jamie Goodwin – Yes, Chase Kaitbenski – Yes, Ian Dunnigan - Yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.**

**Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman**

**Clerk of the Board:** Mary Goodwin

**Date signed:** Nov 6 '23