

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 19, 2018**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator
Colleen King, Administrative Assistant

Absent : Craig Moran. Selectmen

The Chairman M. Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk, M. Dowling read the following:

Motion: To enter Executive Session pursuant to GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2) for Police Chief, Thomas Ford – non-union personnel negotiations and Approval of Executive Session Minutes where the Chair of the Board of Selectmen declares that discussion in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the Town. by M. Dowling

2nd: by P. Gimas

Roll Call Vote: P. Gimas: YES; M. Dowling: YES; M. Blanchard: YES

Note: *Selectmen Suprenant arrived at the meeting at 6:08 p.m. following Executive Session Roll Call was taken.*

Open Session

The Selectmen reconvened in open session at 6:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board members stood for the pledge.

Public Service Announcements

Chairman Blanchard asked that public announcements be held until after the scheduled public hearing.

6:30 p.m. Application for New (Change) License: Restaurant All Alcohol – PNB LLC d/b/a Old Sturbridge Pizza, 392 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

Attorney Dennis Powers appeared before the Board on behalf of his client, Sandeep Singh, of Old Sturbridge Pizza. Attorney Powers reported that Mr. Singh has operated his current pizza business in Sturbridge since 2017 and has been in food service for 20 years. He owns a second restaurant in Hartford, CT which does have a current liquor license. Mr. Singh is also certified as a SafeServ manager. M. Dowling asked about the seating capacity noted in the application, are employees included in the proposed occupancy of 40? Attorney Powers stated that is how he understands the proposal. M. Blanchard stated that the manager and/or bartender needs to be TIP Certified to serve alcohol. M. Blanchard also reminded Attorney Powers that once his client is approved by the State; he cannot continue distributing BYOB mailers.

Motion: I move to close the hearing.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 4-0

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Motion: I move to approve the request from Old Sturbridge Pizza for an All Alcohol license with the stipulation that the manager and/or bartender is TIP Certified.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Dowling

Vote passed 4-0

6:30 p.m. Application for New (Change) License: Inn Holder Wines & Malt – Old Sturbridge Inc. d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd (physical address: 369 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

Alexis Conte, Vice-President of Visitor Services at Old Sturbridge Village and Brian Amedy, Lodging Manager at Old Sturbridge Village Lodges appeared before the Board requesting an on-premises Inn Holder Wines and Malt license for their lodging guests. Mr. Amedy is TIPS Certified. The outdoor area is 15 feet with a fire pit, eight (8) chairs, and is only used seasonally. The outdoor area is not a public access walkway, only a small walking path exists behind the lodging for guests. M. Suprenant stated he had visited the site and everything looks to be in order with the application.

Motion: I move to close the hearing.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 4-0

Motion: I move to approve the request from Old Sturbridge Village Inc. Lodges for a Wines and Malt license with Brian Amedy as manager.

by: M. Suprenant

2nd: by P. Gimas

Vote passed 4-0

Public Service Announcements

P. Gimas announced the Meet the Candidates Night will be held on Thursday, March 22 at the Comfort Inn on 215 Charlton Road from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

M. Blanchard read the following announcements:

- Sturbridge Community Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing to study the needs and resources of the community that relate to preservation on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Veteran's Memorial Hall in the Sturbridge Town Hall
- Vacancy with the Street Light Committee due to the passing of a resident member. The Street Light Committee reviews requests from resident on the installation of new street lights.
- Sturbridge Planning Department and Open Space Committee are updating a current Open Space and Recreational Plan that provides for the green infrastructure of the community. The public can provide input by completing an online survey on the Open Space Committee's webpage and also enter a photo contest of a favorite open space or recreation area in town. In addition, please attend the Public Forum in Paige Hall at the Publick House on April 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Public Hearing Notice: Sturbridge Planning Board – proposed zoning bylaw amendment as petitioned by the Board of Selectmen to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments in accordance with MGL, Ch 40A, Section 5 to be held at the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

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- Ribbon Cutting Celebration: new business location for Red Door Realty, 71 Main Street (Rt 131) Sturbridge on Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Water Main Flushing from Tuesday, April 3, 2018 until Friday, May 11, 2018. Flushing will begin at 8AM and finish by 5PM - Monday through Friday each day. Residents are advised not to bleach stained clothes from the temporary water discoloration as the stain will set permanently. Residents may contact the Water Department at (508) 347-2513 for further assistance.
- The 2017 Water Quality Report is now available online on the Town of Sturbridge website. Hard copies are also available by calling (508) 347-2513 to request a copy by mail or email.

Department Head Report(s)

Building Department

Nelson Burlingame, Building Department Inspector appeared before the Board to report on the following topics:

Removal of Dangerous or Abandoned Properties: Mr. Burlingame provided hand-outs on the problem properties in Town. He explained the Town has the authority through the Massachusetts Building Code and MGL, Chapter 143 to take initiative in removing unsafe and/or abandoned structures. There are a series of procedures to follow before removal can take place. The collection of debt for demolition under MGL, Chapter 139, Section 3A is the owner's liability. The debt due with interest must be filed by the Town within 90 days of a violation notice and the filing will continue for two years following the filing. After a period of three years, the property may be taken for non-payment by owner. There is also an appeal time of three days after a violation notice is issued. Mr. Burlingame proposes that the best procedure to follow would be to issue three violation letters and then draw from a Town account (holding an amount up to \$75-\$100k) to pay for the demolition. Also, Town Counsel should be consulted regarding a fine schedule. M. Dowling stated she supported the effort to establish a fund and procedure in dealing with the unsafe buildings in Town. M. Suprenant stated that in order to appropriate up to \$100k in a revolving fund, it will need to go to Town Meeting for approval. Town Administrator L. Gaumont stated that he can provide for this by placing a Warrant Article, but cannot move money in between accounts. M. Blanchard stated that if there were an urgent need for demolition as a matter of public safety, the Finance Committee could approve a reserve fund transfer.

Motion: I move to authorize the Building Inspector proceed with the proposed steps as listed in the memo dated 3/5/18.

by: M. Dowling

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 4-0

Motion: I move the Town Administrator set up a Warrant Article per the Building Inspector recommendations for a demolition fund of unsafe buildings in Town. Funding amount to be determined.

by: M. Suprenant

2nd: by M. Dowling

Vote passed 4-0

M. Blanchard requested the Building Inspector prepare a list of the nearby towns' demolition process.

Fee Changes:

Peter Starkus, Plumbing and Gas Inspector joined the Building Inspector to discuss the topic of fees. The Building Inspector stated that the proposed fees are based on square footage, citing that this proposal would be the most fair across the board. Mr. Burlingame noted that the Town's fee schedule has not changed since 2010.

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P. Gimas noted the proposed yard sale sign fee is going from \$2 to free. P. Gimas stated not charging a fee will discourage residents from applying for the permit for a sign as there is no consequence. The Building Inspector agreed but stated that residents can be advised through the Town's website to take down any personal yard sale signs off of Town property.

Peter Starkus outlined the changes to the plumbing, gas and electric fees. The plumbing fees will increase by \$10 per inspection keeping in line with a town by town comparison survey. Gas fees were discovered to quite high in the past (\$90) and are now proposed to go down to \$75, again, in keeping with other comparable town fees. Electric fees will increase for pool inspections.

The Building Inspector stated that the fees will be in place as of July 1, 2018.

Note: *Selectmen Dowling left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

Town Administrator's Update

Vote to allow plantings at the Civil War Monument

A student from Tantasqua Regional High School, Ali Gatchell, put a request in to the Library Director for permission to weed and plant perennials around the monument as part of the volunteer program: Tantasqua Dynamics of Democracy Program.

Motion: I move to approve the request from Ali Gatchell, a senior at Tantasqua, to plant historically accurate plants around the Civil War monument adjacent to the Library, as recommended by the Library Director.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Amendments to Policy on Appointment Procedures

The Town Administrator requested this item be held until a full board was present.

Vote to Renew Seasonal Retail Liquor Licenses:

Hemlock Ridge Golf Course & Yogi Bear Jellystone Park Camp Resort

The Town Administrator advised the Board that there are two (2) seasonal liquor licenses that need to renew for 2018 beginning in April. The Board will not be meeting again prior to April 1 and need to vote to renew and sign the certification form. The applicants will be providing original signed applications prior to April 1.

Motion: I move to renew the 2018 seasonal retail liquor licenses.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

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Old Business

Charter Communications

P. Gimas asked the Town Administrator if he was able to contact a representative from Charter Communications to attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting. L. Gaumond stated that he did contact a representative who is tentatively scheduled for April 2.

New Business

Budget Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2018 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Veteran's Memorial Hall, Town Hall

Senior Center Donation in memory of Doris Lesniewski

L. Gaumond asked the Board to accept the donation of \$1,756.00 was received in memory of Doris Lesniewski to beautify the two (2) flower beds in front of the Senior Center.

Motion: I move to accept the donation of \$1,756.00 for the Senior Center.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Resignation of Anne Renaud-Jones, Conservation Clerk

L. Gaumond informed the Board that he received a resignation notice from Anne Renaud-Jones of the Conservation Office effective April 5, 2018.

Motion: I move to accept the resignation of Anne Renaud-Jones from the Conservation Commission Office.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Vote of concurrence for appointment of Joanne Everson, Finance Committee Recording Secretary

L. Gaumond informed the Board that he has selected a candidate, Joanne Everson, to be the new recording secretary for the Finance Committee, effective March 29, 2018 at a rate of pay of \$15.87 per hour.

Motion: I move to appoint Joanne Everson as the new Finance Committee Recording Secretary effective March 29, 2018 at a pay rate of \$15.87 per hour.

by: P. Gimas

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Correspondence

P. Gimas read from the correspondence received.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the meeting minutes will be held until the next meeting.

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Citizen's Forum

None

Adjourn

Motion: I move to adjourn.

by: P. Gimas

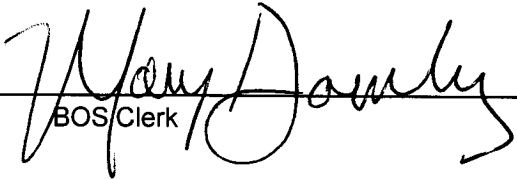
2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen J. King, Administrative Assistant

 4/13/18
BOS Clerk Date