

November 6, 2017

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 6, 2017**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice Chairman
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator

Absent: C. Moran

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Service Announcements

P. Gimas wished all veterans a Happy Veterans Day; M. Suprenant announced that the Town Offices will be closed on Friday in honor of the day.

M. Dowling offered a moment of silence for the victims of the church shooting in Texas.

L. Gaumond announced committee vacancies on the Conservation Commission (Associate members), Design Review, Affordable Housing Partnership, Historical Commission and Open Space Committee.

M. Blanchard announced that Free Cash was approved at \$4,371,400.

L. Gaumond announced that Betterment & Capital Forms are now available and due December 1st.

M. Suprenant announced that there will be a non-partisan Pub, Pizza & Politics event on November 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting with Historical Commission

The Selectmen met with the Historical Commission for an update on their recent projects. Barbara Search and Richard Volpe spoke on behalf of the Commission.

They presented the Selectmen with a mahogany relief of the Minuteman Statue for the Minuteman Room in Town Hall. They provided the Selectmen with a report on the recent procurement of services for the Historical Survey project as funded through CPA funds at the last Annual Town Meeting. The winning bidder was PAL and the State Historical Commission has approved the award of the bid to them as well.

R. Volpe announced a desire to create a Historical Preservation Award Program in the Town and suggested that the Public House receive such an award. More information is forthcoming on this project.

B. Search mentioned that the Commission is also interested in researching options for the preservation of town archives and they will be seeking resources to accomplish this task.

Concurrence of New Employees to the Police Department

The Selectmen were joined by Police Chief Thomas Ford for the purposes of meeting and appointing new members of the department. First he asked for the concurrence of the Town Administrator's appointment of two part-time dispatchers.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Sabrina Suarez to the position of Part-time Dispatcher effective November 7, 2017 at a rate of \$20.20/hour. By: P. Gimas.

2nd: By: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor Passed 4-0

November 6, 2017

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Alexis St. Francis to the position of Part-time Dispatcher effective November 7, 2017 at a rate of \$18.94/hour. By: P. Gimas.
2nd: By: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor Passed 4-0

Chief Ford then asked for the concurrence of Kevin Filchak, the Town's Economic Development Coordinator to serve as the Part-time Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Kevin Filchak to the position of Part-time Emergency Management Coordinator effective November 20, 2017 at a rate of \$19.07/hour. By: M. Suprenant.
2nd: By: P. Gimas

Vote: All in Favor Passed 4-0

At this point Chief Ford introduced two candidates to fill the vacancies of two police officer positions. He introduced Garrett Danna and Thomas Giordano, two former interns in the department and currently police officers in other towns to fill the vacancies.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Garrett Danna and Thomas Giordano to the position of Police Officer effective November 7, 2017 at a rate of \$26.54/hour. By: P. Gimas.
2nd: By: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor Passed 4-0

Town Administrator Update

L. Gaumond announced that Tantasqua is seeking a member of the Board of Selectmen to serve as a liaison for the FY19 budget process. After discussion M. Suprenant agreed to fill in this role..

Motion: To have Michael Suprenant represent the Sturbridge Selectmen as their liaison for the FY19 budget process for Tantasqua, with appreciation. By: M. Dowling
2nd: By: P. Gimas

Vote: In Favor Passed 4-0

The Selectmen heard a request for a water/sewer abatement from the Romano's on Country Hill Road. M. Blanchard informed the Romano's that the Town does not grant abatements unless it is the Town's responsibility. The Selectmen suggested it has long been the policy of the Selectmen. M. Dowling suggested that this issue be discussed at their retreat this year. The Romano's expressed a desire to have known in advance that it was the practice of the Board of Selectmen not to approve abatements unless the Town is at fault for the usage.

L. Gaumond informed the Board that Debra Gauthier, Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator & Board of Selectmen has resigned.

Motion: To accept the resignation of the Debra Gauthier as Administrative Assistant with regret. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: By: P. Gimas

Vote: In Favor Passed 4-0

November 6, 2017

The Board heard a request from the Town Administrator to consider a 360 degree evaluation for the Town Administrator's evaluation this year as required by ICMA every 5 years. M. Blanchard thought this was a fine idea. P. Gimás did not want this evaluation to substitute for the regular evaluation for the Town Administrator.

Motion: To agree to a 360 evaluation for the Town Administrator provided that the Selectmen retain the authority to conduct their evaluation process as the Town Administrator's supervisor. By: P. Gimás

2nd: By: M. Dowling

Vote: In Favor Passed 4-0

L. Gaumond provided the Selectmen with an update on the TA/Selectmen's response to the Master Plan Implementation Committee for 2017. M. Blanchard thanked him for the report and deferred on his reading of the report.

L. Gaumond presented a powerpoint on the Selectmen's goal on adoption of a complete street policy. The presentation showed examples of the complete street design, examples of items which could be procured with grant funds, and the process by which Sturbridge could become a 'complete street' community. P. Gimás offered concerns if this was something that would be mandated to require businesses to adopt a new standard. L. Gaumond responded that the policy is written to provide guidance, not a mandate. M. Suprenant concurred and said it was not mandatory and was happy with the idea. M. Dowling expressed disappointment in the fact that the state roads are unaffected by the policy. She asked whether or not we could use these funds to construct wayfinding signs on state roads. L. Gaumond felt it was possible with the approval from the state but he will look into it.

Motion: To ask the Town Administrator to call for a public hearing to consider adoption of a complete streets policy. By: P. Gimás

2nd: By: M. Suprenant

Vote: In Favor Passed 4-0

L. Gaumond presented his update on goals for 2017. The Selectmen were satisfied with the report from the Town Administrator.

Correspondence

P. Gimás read the correspondence. M. Blanchard added that she has received information from Good Energy which she shared with the Town Administrator

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 16, 2017 as amended. By: P. Gimás

2nd: By: M. Suprenant

Vote: In Favor Passed 3-0-1 (Dowling abstain)

Old Business

P. Gimás expressed her concern about providing comments to the Conservation Commission in advance of the hearing to be held on the Wetlands Bylaws Regulations on November 20th. She believes it to be a violation of the open meeting law and her calls to clarify the matter left her unclear as to the right thing to do. M. Dowling agreed with P. Gimás. P. Gimás was more apprehensive given that the Conservation Commission apparently violated the open meeting law once again at their recent meeting. L. Gaumond agreed to communicate this with the Conservation Commission.

M. Dowling would like to invite the Braveheart baseball representatives to come to a future Selectmen's meeting.

November 6, 2017

New Business

There was no new business.

Citizen's Forum

Andre Cormier approached the Selectmen and expressed his desire to learn more about the Town and found the Selectmen's meeting to be very interested and appreciated the Selectmen and Town Administrator.

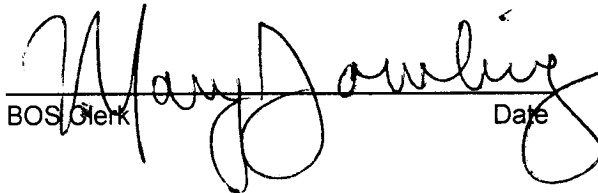
Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. By: M. Dowling
2nd: By: P. Gimas

Vote: All in Favor Passed 4-0

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator

 2/20/18
BOS Clerk Date