

February 5, 2018

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
February 5, 2018**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Michael Suprenant
Craig Moran
Colleen King, Administrative Assistant

Absent : Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator

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

Clerk, M. Dowling read the following:

Motion: I move to enter Executive Session pursuant to GL c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2) for Police Chief, Thomas Ford, non-union personnel negotiations, where Chair of 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 M. Suprenant

**Roll call vote: C. Moran: YES; P. Gimas: YES; M. Suprenant: YES; M. Dowling: YES; M. Blanchard: YES
All in Favor. Vote passed 5-0**

Open Session

Selectmen reconvened in open session at 6:39 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board members stood for the pledge.

Public Service Announcements

- **Town of Sturbridge accepting applications for Tax Assistance for Low Income Senior & Disabled Citizens Program**
- **Recreation Department seeking members for new Field Plans Committee**
- **Town Administrator Memo re: Annual Town Meeting Warrant preparation schedule**

Chairman M. Blanchard announced the meeting was being recorded by the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

**6:30 p.m. Pole Hearing: #T.5S/E.5-84 -Verizon New England Inc. & Massachusetts Electric Co. (NGRID)
Glenridge Road**

Paul Davis who is doing work on behalf of Verizon to replace, provide support and re-guide the existing pole on Glenridge Road. The pole will be placed on the northeast side of Glenridge Road approximately 176 feet east from the center line of Ridge Way. The Tree Warden reviewed the plans and had no objection. The DPW Director reviewed the plans and commented that the pole needs to be at least four (4) feet off the road and to be cautious regarding the drainage line.

Motion: I move to accept the pole petition located on Glenridge Road with the attached DPW memo as part of the permit. by: M. Suprenant.

2nd: by M. Dowling

All in Favor. Vote passed 5-0

Application: Dock Permit – 336 The Trail, Sturbridge

Anthony and Antoinette Reno appeared before the Board to request approval for a proposed dock permit application for the property located at 336 The Trail. Moira McGrath, local realtor was also present on behalf of her clients. The Renos' are considering purchasing the 336 The Trail property but wanted to first know if a dock could be allowed. The Board members stated that they are not able to grant permission or approval for a proposed dock application until the applicants are owners; however they do not see any issues with the proposal as presented. The DPW and Conservation Commission reviewed the application and commented that the dock is too close to the Town dam and should move more to the east. The applicants thanked the Board for their comments and time and may return if they decide to purchase the property.

Adoption Order of Street Layout – Acorn Lane & Old Towne Way

Town Counsel, KP Law, prepared the order of layout for Acorn Lane and Old Towne Way for the Selectmen to approve and adopt for Annual Town Meeting. The plans have been reviewed and approved by the Planning Board and the DPW.

- **Acorn Lane**

M. Suprenant asked about whether the layout plans included the new as built plans versus the 1994 plans that do not show the layout or grading of the road. M. Suprenant stated that he voiced this concern at the January 16th meeting for L. Gaumond to look into. He would favor accepting the layout of street with an amendment to reference the recently updated plans.

- **Old Towne Way**

L. Gaumond had provided a copy of an email memo written by Town Counsel regarding Old Towne Way street acceptance. The previous developer did not reserve the fee or any of the easements. Town Counsel has suggested the Town could take the easements by eminent domain if the Selectmen were agreeable to this strategy.

M. Suprenant stated that the plan referenced is still the original subdivision plans. State law requires the layout plans to show the boundaries and grading of the road. The as built plans do show the grade of the road and should be referenced and recorded with the Town Clerk. M. Blanchard stated that plans need to be recorded with the Town Clerk seven (7) days prior to Town Meeting. M. Suprenant stated he is willing to approve of the layout if the updated layout plans are referenced.

C. Moran voiced concern about the potential costs associated with eminent domain. Attorney Bob George, representing the Homeowners Association along with resident Julie Horrigan, President of the HOA were present and asked to speak. Atty. George and Julie Horrigan stated that they do plan on trying to get easement waivers signed from each of the homeowners.

Motion: I move to order the layout of Acorn Road as a Public Way subject to changing the plan reference to the updated as built plan, to be recorded by Town Clerk within ten (10) days. by: M. Suprenant

M. Dowling stated she would second the motion but wanted to point out that both plans should be referenced for the streets since Town Counsel had prepared the layout drafts referencing the subdivision plans.

M. Suprenant then re-worded his motion:

I move to order the layout of Acorn Road and Old Towne Way as a Public Way subject to changing the plan reference from subdivision plan to also include layout plan, to be recorded by Town Clerk within ten (10) days.

by: M. Suprenant

2nd: by M. Dowling

All in Favor. Vote passed 5-0

After some discussion by Board members regarding eminent domain for Acorn Lane; M. Suprenant stated that he would not support the street layout if the Town were to take easements.

New Placement of Temporary Dock Permit Proposal - 47 Seneca Lane, Sturbridge

Glenn Krevosky of EBT Environmental Consultants, Inc. came before the Board for reconsideration of the dock permit that was approved at the January 16th meeting. The property owner, George Kondylis, returned to the Conservation Commission to amend the permit with a new center placement of the dock on the northern side of the previous plans.

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The new positioning of the dock will move approximately 30 feet to the north so it will not be too close to their property line or the abutting property owners.

Motion: I move to accept the revised dock permit plan as approved by the Conservation Commission. by: M. Suprenant.

2nd: by M. Dowling

Vote passed 4-0; C. Moran abstaining

Town Administrator's Update

Showcase Antiques, 371 Main Street has closed its business and contacted the Selectmen's Office to not relinquish their 2018 license. They are currently contacting consigners and closing out merchandise.

Tighe & Bond: The Board is in agreement with the Town Administrator's recommendation for the agreement.

Motion: I move to enter into agreement with Tighe and Bond for the McGilpin Road water line study for the amount of \$29,600 pending acceptance of state funds. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: by M. Dowling

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Amendments to Board/Committee Appointment Procedures

Board members agreed to postpone discussion until next meeting

Fire Dept Grant Applications: Engine 2 Replacement & Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Motion: I move to approve Chief Grass's request in his memorandum dated 1/29/18 to seek grant applications for equipment listed. by: M. Dowling

2nd: by P. Gimás

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Set Town Goals & Objectives for 2018

Motion: I move to approve the goals for 2018 with the addition of the Water Pipe Infrastructure Project from 2017 to be included as a carry-over of its 2-year goal. by: P. Gimás

2nd: by M. Suprenant

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

KP Law Agreement re: Opioid Litigation

Motion: I move to adopt the agreement regarding opioid litigation consistent with the memorandum sent by KP Law dated 1/24/18. by: M. Dowling

2nd: by P. Gimás

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Amend and Close Special Town Meeting Warrant

Motion: I move to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant. by: P. Gimás

2nd: by C. Moran

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Motion: I move to post the Special Town Meeting Warrant. by: P. Gimás

2nd: by C. Moran

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Old Business

Communication from Community Preservation Committee (CPC) on CPA Project ideas for affordable housing

Board members will request Town Administrator, L. Gaumond look into getting a volunteer speaker from the Senior Center to give a presentation about the Housing Partnership.

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New Business

Evaluation of Town Administrator

M. Blanchard reviewed random selections of positive and negative comments from each category of the evaluation form. The overall score was 4.09 out of 5 for the year. M. Blanchard outlined how this score allows the Town Administrator to be eligible for a 2% [of his yearly salary] merit raise which would amount to \$2,800.78; or \$2,100.59 for a 1.5% raise; or \$1,400.39 for a 1% raise, depending on how the Board wishes to vote.

Motion: To approve a 2% merit increase of annual salary. by: M. Dowling

2nd: by: M. Blanchard

Vote passed 4-1

Letter of Resignation – Finance Committee Recording Secretary

Motion: To accept the resignation. by: P. Gimas

2nd: by: M. Suprenant

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Marijuana Discussion/Speaker

P. Gimas asked about the name of the person who was previously mentioned at the last retreat. She asked if L. Gaumond could find out the name of that speaker so they could be contacted about speaking on the effects of marijuana in the community.

Article #47 regarding Water Contamination Engineering Services will not be on the Special Town Meeting Warrant; perhaps it will instead be on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Once a motion is made to remove this article; the other articles in the Warrant will need to be re-numbered.

Motion: To remove Article #47. by: P. Gimas

2nd: by: M. Suprenant

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Article #56 regarding unpaid bills from previous fiscal year. There were (2) unpaid bills discovered at the Senior Center that need to be included in the article.

Motion: To amend Article #56 to include the new amount of \$1,076.09. by: M. Suprenant

2nd: by: C. Moran

All in favor. Vote passed 5-0

Article #62 regarding support of the request from Lucky Mart for an All Alcohol Retail Package Store License. If article is voted in favorably; the Town will seek Special Legislation for additional license

Motion: To place and support Article #62. by: P. Gimas

2nd: by: C. Moran

Vote passed 4-0; M. Dowling (abstaining)

Correspondence

M. Blanchard read from the correspondence list. P. Gimas asked about two (2) email communications that were sent to the Board from the Town Administrator and why it wasn't included in the correspondence listing for the public? M. Blanchard stated that this may need to be a discussion and a policy established. The matter will be tabled for future discussion.

Approval of Minutes

January 2, 2018

P. Gimas requested these minutes be held until she checks the taped session for possible errors.

January 27, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 27, 2018 as amended. by: P. Gimas

2nd: by: M. Dowling

All in Favor. Vote passed 5-0

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Citizen's Forum

None

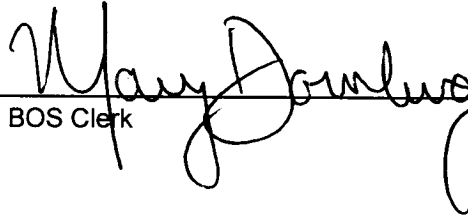
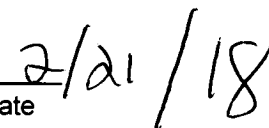
Motion: To adjourn the meeting. by: P. Gimas

2nd: by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor. Vote passed 5-0

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Colleen J. King, Administrative Assistant

BOS Clerk Date