

January 17, 2017

Board of Selectmen
Minutes
January 17, 2017

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Craig Moran

Absent:
Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Service Announcements

M. Dowling welcomed M. Blanchard back from her absence.

M. Dowling thanked all the residents, organizations, and the Trails Committee for their contribution to the Heinz Farm Trail's Christmas tree decoration event.

M. Blanchard made the following announcements:

Trek Sturbridge had a press release for the Friends of Sturbridge Trails 4th annual meeting; the Pinnacle Award to be presented to a Sturbridge couple.

The Worcester County Selectmen's Association will be meeting in the Fairfax Room at the Sheraton Hotel, Boston, at 5:00 p.m., as part of the MMA Annual Meeting to be held on January 20-21, 2017.

The Town is now accepting applications for the Town of Sturbridge Tax Assistance for Low Income Senior and Disabled Citizens Program. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2017.

The Police Department is scheduled for its Re-Accreditation Assessment on February 6, 2017.

The Interim Town Clerk has announced that nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town election to be held on Monday, April 10, 2017.

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The Interim Town Clerk has announced that dog licenses are now available in the Town Clerk's office.

The Tree Warden has announced that the "Adopt a Tree" Program is now in effect. Contact T. Chamberlain for details.

Public Hearing: (6:35pm) Village Pizza and Restaurant - Change of Ownership - 487 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

M. Dowling read the public hearing notice into the record.

Mr. Jose and Kelly Corino appeared before the Board represented by their attorney. They gave a brief introduction of their intention to buy Village Pizza from the current owners and thanked them for the opportunity to pursue his dream. Mr. Corino asserted that he had been working there as an employee and planned to maintain the same staff. Their attorney asserted that the Board of Health inspection was performed in December and that everything was in order. Nellie Gidopolous, the current owner, expressed her support from the audience.

C. Moran inquired whether they were TIPS certified and reviewed the CORI check. M. Blanchard asked a few questions regarding work history. M. Suprenant expressed his support for the quality of the pizza and wished them well.

There was no public comment.

Motion: To close the public hearing.

By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

Motion: To approve the change of ownership for Village Pizza and Restaurant, 487 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

Public Hearing: (6:35) Hemlock Ridge Golf Course – Change of Ownership – 220 Holland Road, Fiskdale, MA 01518 --- DID NOT APPEAR

Department Head Reports

Building Inspector

The Building Inspector reported that there were a lot of inspections completed, including 110 inspections, and insulation inspections. He reported that the new building at 420 Main Street was 60% completed. He also reported that the hotel at 358 Main Street had new fire alarms being put in. Altruist Brewery has not yet applied for permit as the owner of the building and business are in lease negotiations. N. Burlingame indicated that he is receiving a lot of questions as to when Porterhouse Steak House is opening given that the sign is up. He advised them to cover the sign or put an "opening soon" sign up to alert the public. He indicated that, in general, based upon the number of permits, that building activity is picking up.

C. Moran asked a series of questions regarding the status of the Ameresco/Blue Wave solar project. N. Burlingame stated that he has not been asked to inspect the project to date. L. Gaumond asserted that the project was "substantially completed" and that Ameresco was waiting final approval from National Grid "to flip the switch." C. Moran indicated that the Building Inspector was supposed to make a final inspection before National Grid made the connection. M. Suprenant and M. Dowling agreed.

M. Suprenant indicated that he attended the Board of Health meeting and noted that a number of area hotels had complaints against them, including, sanitary code and building code violations. N. Burlingame said that he was aware and that they are being addressed.

Police Chief

T. Ford presented his November and December monthly reports. M. Blanchard indicated that the accident log for November simply read "Main Street" and that it would be helpful if it was more specific. T. Ford said that he would look into it. T. Ford asserted that the month of December was busy. Toys for Tots was a big success and was the largest collection in South Central County. The Senior Center dinner was well attended with approximately 50 seniors participating in the festivities. He thanked Village Pizza for their generosity and the Police Association. He also thanked Barbara from the Police Department for her generosity and her time indicating that she personally donated a large number of the gifts. T. Ford asserted that the Community Emergency Response Team had a training. He also indicated that he was pleased to offer their police dog to the Palmer Police Department for an event/threat at its school.

C. Moran stated his belief that 4 police officers were looking into employment with the state police and asked if the Chief was prepared in the event they left the Sturbridge force. T. Ford

indicated that he was aware that 4 officers scored high enough on the state test to advance and stated that he would know well ahead of time to plan accordingly.

Fire Chief

P. Ford presented the monthly report for December. He indicated that there was nothing unusual in that month, but that there was a 5% increase in overall ambulance runs and an 80% increase in multiple calls for an ambulance. He indicated that they were doing a better job on multiple calls and that they were now missing 25% of the calls. He stated that while the number of ambulance calls increased there was a slight decline in the number of fire calls and also a decrease in the percentage not covered from 39% to 27%. P. Ford indicated that the amount of alarm calls was pretty consistent. He indicated that there was a big increase in the number of burning permits issued. M. Dowling asked whether the hotel and restaurant violation were corrected. P. Ford stated that there was "great progress" in addressing the hotel violations.

There was in-depth discussion about the availability of a SAFER grant through FEMA and whether or not the Town should apply. P. Ford stated that the application was open until February 10. He indicated that the grant is a three year term. It provides 75% of the costs for new FFs in the first 2 years and 35% of the cost in year 3. The Town pays the balance. He recommended seeking 4 new FFs. C. Moran stated that the application does not require a certain number of new hires to be considered for the grant. P. Ford stated that although the grant does not require a specific number of new hires to be considered, he knows what it takes to be successful in obtaining the grant. He stated that the Town would never be awarded the grant if it only sought 1 new FF. He explained that the purpose of the grant is to bring a department into the National Consensus standard. Hiring only 1 new FF would not come close to meeting the goal and the application would be denied. He indicated that if 4 new FFs were hired then the Town could meet the standard 90% of the time. Once the grant runs out, the Town would have 3 options: (1) layoff; (2) go back to even due to attrition, or (3) fund the 4 new hires. L. Gaumond indicated that Chief Zinther applied for the grant the year before, but was unsuccessful.

Motion: To direct our Interim Fire Chief to move forward with the application process to receive a grant through the SAFER program for 4 new hires.

By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

All in favor: Passed 4-0

Walker Pond Forest Cutting Plan -- DID NOT APPEAR

L. Gaumond requested that it be carried over and explained that it was not advertised as a public hearing and that it would be scheduled for the Board meeting on February 6.

Town Administrator's Update

L. Gaumond presented Arland Tool's letter of intent to apply for a TIF for construction of a new commercial building on 198 Charlton Road. M. Baker, owner of Arland Tool, and K. Filchak, the town's economic and tourist coordinator, appeared before the Board. M. Baker explained that the project was through ATM Associates and not a manufacturing building for Arland Tool. She indicated that they own three commercial properties in town and are seeking to build a professional office building. She indicated that the town does not have a lot of professional offices and, in particular, medical offices, and that she believed it would be an asset to the town.

The Board asked a series of questions regarding employment opportunities and specifics about the value of the project. C. Moran asked how many employees would be hired. M. Baker explained that the number would be up to the tenants. She stated that the project would be in the 3M to 4M dollar range. M. Suprenant asked if the location was a priority development site and thereby entitled to expedited permitting. M. Baker answered in the affirmative. M. Blanchard stated that she was open to consider a TIF, but that the Board needed specifics before it could commit. The Board agreed. L. Gaumond explained that the TIF discussion was in the initial stages.

Motion: To direct the Town Administrator to work with the applicant to develop a TIF for the property located at 198 Charlton Road consistent with the letter of intent for the Selectmen's consideration.

By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

Motion: To accept a gift of \$510 for the Conservation Commission from William & Jocelyn Bouvier.

By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

L. Gaumond announced the certification of free cash in the amount of \$3,368,709.

C. Moran noted that approximately \$173,000 was turned back to the town from the DPW due to the fact that they did not fill 3-4 vacancies. He indicated that this has been occurring for the past 2-3 years. He suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate to eliminate the vacant positions if

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they were not going to be filled and put the money back in when the DPW was ready to hire. L. Gaumond stated that he would discuss the matter with G. Morse.

M. Suprenant asked about a sum of \$109,500 in free cash and asked whether a project was not completed and whether or not something may have fallen through the cracks. He questioned whether the sum should have been carried over. L. Gaumond stated that he would look into it.

L. Gaumond announced that the Senior Work Program has approved Howard Pratt to the DPW (work to be done by Robert Richardson).

Motion: To authorize the DPW to overspend for sand and salt in their snow budget as needed.

By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

L. Gaumond announced the Proclamation for 2 new Eagle Scouts: Zachary Fitzgibbon and Will Aldenberg. The Courts of Honor are being held on 1/29 and 2/19, respectively. C. Moran volunteered to attend the first one, and M. Blanchard volunteered to attend the second one.

Motion: To sign the Proclamation for Zachary Fitzgibbon honoring him for becoming an Eagle Scout.

By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

Motion: To sign the Proclamation for Will Aldenberg honoring him for becoming an Eagle Scout.

By: M. Dowling

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence into the record.

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Motion: To support the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club's ice races to be held on Sundays from 8-4 p.m.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0.

Old Business

M. Dowling stated that she received complaints from runners and walkers that the sidewalks on Rte 20 and Rte 131 are not shoveled in various spots. Some are icy and snowy. She suggested that we may want to review our bylaw that places the duty on the property owner. Either the property owners must do it or the DPW needs to address it.

New Business

C. Moran inquired about the information coming from Shane regarding water meters.

M. Blanchard reminded the Board that the Town Administrator's evaluation forms need to be submitted to her by 1/25.

Citizen's Forum

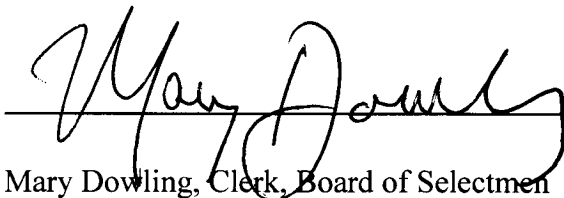
There was no citizen's forum.

Motion: To adjourn.

By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor Passed 4-0

 4/13/18
Mary Dowling, Clerk, Board of Selectmen DATED: