

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
October 3, 2016**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Michael Suprenant
Craig Moran
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator
Deborah Gauthier, Administrative Assistant

Absent : None

Open Session

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board members and all in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Agenda

M. Blanchard read the Agenda for the meeting for the benefit of the public.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard announced that the Charter Review Committee would be having a hearing on their Final Report on the Charter at the Center Office Building on October 4th.

M. Blanchard noted that KP Law would be conducting a presentation on the Public Records Law on October 13th. at the Town Hall - 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm for staff and 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for elected and appointed officials.

M. Blanchard also noted that there would be a ribbon cutting at the WRTA Operations and Maintenance Facility on October 4th at 9:00 am.

Public Hearing – Petition for Pole and Wire Location - 57 Bushnell Road opposite side of street to 181 Podunk Road
M, Dowling read the Public Hearing Notice. at 6:35 pm.

DJ Alberti, National Grid engineer explained that the pole is needed because the customer is getting solar panels and needs to be on a separate transformer.

M. Suprenant asked how far the new pole would be from the edge of the pavement. DJ Alberti replied that it would be 6 to 7 feet from the road and driveway. C Moran asked whether National Grid had any problem complying with the DPW Director's Memo. M. Blanchard read the DPW Director's Memo to DJ Alberti and Mr. Alberti agreed that a pole recently replaced on Leadmine Road next to the pavement had to be moved.

C. Moran questioned the wording in the Petition about underground wires. DJ Alberti, L. Gaumond and M. Suprenant explained that the Petition was a form that includes all types of work, but the Plan and Order are specific and do not include underground wires in this instance.

M. Dowling and M. Blanchard suggested that the poles noted in the DPW Director's Memo should be moved before the proposed new pole is set.

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Anne Geyer, an abutter, questioned whether the same pole and transformer could support a solar array on her property. DJ Alberti could not answer her question without more information and review by National Grid's solar department. A. Geyer asked if the line after the pole would be underground and DJ Alberti answered that it would be. A. Geyer also asked who would be responsible if the large Ash tree near the pole was damaged or suffered decline because of the excavation. DJ Alberti replied that her neighbor would be liable because National Grid will only trim the tree and the neighbor will do the excavation for the underground wires.

C. Moran asked why a such a large (75 KVA) transformer is needed. DJ Alberti said that the customer had a large back yard. DJ Alberti stated that sizing for solar installations is done by another department.

Motion: **To close the Public Hearing By: P. Gimas**
2nd: **By M. Dowling**

Vote: **Passed 5-0; All in Favor**

Motion: **To approve the Pole Petition and issue an Order contingent upon National Grid coming into compliance with the recommendation of the Director of Public Works By: M. Suprenant**
2nd: **By P. Gimas**

Vote: **Passed 4-0-1; C. Moran (abstaining)**

M. Blanchard recognizing that it was not time yet for the next Public Hearing, asked L. Gaumond to proceed with the Town Administrator's Update.

Town Administrator's Update

L. Gaumond presented a request by the Chamber of Commerce to move the Special Event sign from the Information Center to the Town Park located at the intersection of Route 20 and Cedar Street. The DPW Director wanted control over the location of the sign to avoid conflicts with under ground utilities. The Police Chief had no problem with the move.

Alix McNitt explained that the sign had to be moved because Chamber of Commerce is closing their Office and the Information Center because the owner, Old Sturbridge Village, will be leasing or selling the property. A. McNitt and a few members of the Chamber looked at all of Route 20 and it appeared to them the intersection of Route 20 and Cedar Street was the best location for the sign if Town wants to keep it going.

Alix McNitt had contacted the Town Planner to make sure that moving the sign would not be in violation of the Sign Bylaw. There was some discussion about changing the design to be consistent with the wayfinding signage in the future.

M. Blanchard asked if the sign was in good condition and A. McNitt replied yes, and that they had John Cloutier of Globe Sign look at the sign to see if it could be moved, and he said that it would not be a problem.

C. Moran asked how the sign would be faced as to not block the view coming out of Cedar Street. A. McNitt said that it would be located behind the sidewalk and that the DPW Director would be consulted regarding sight lines.

M. Suprenant asked Ms. McNitt to elaborate on why they couldn't just buy a new sign that goes with the wayfinding signs. A. McNitt said that there weren't sufficient funds left in the first round of the wayfinding appropriation and that it would cost advertisers more to buy new panels.

M Blanchard asked where the funds for moving the sign were coming from. A. McNitt said that a request would be submitted to the Sturbridge Tourist Association at their October 13th Meeting.

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M. Dowling initiated a discussion about how useful and popular the Special Events Sign is.

Motion: **To approve the request of the Chamber of Commerce to move the Special Events Sign from its current location to Centennial Park By: M. Dowling**
2nd: **By P. Gimas**

Vote: **Passed 5-0; All in Favor**

Public Hearing on Application for Fuel Storage Tanks – 21 New Boston Road for Holliday Inn Express

M. Dowling read the Public Hearing Notice.at 7:09 pm.

Peter Yacobucci and John Flaherty representing Osterman Propane, the company that will be installing the tanks, introduced themselves. J. Flaherty said that the Holliday Inn Express needs for heat and hot water require 3,000 gallons of propane storage. Mr. Flaherty said that Massachusetts Law requires a license to store rather than a permit for storage facilities over 2,000 gallons.

J. Flaherty stated that they have approval from the Fire Inspector for the proposed installation. M. Suprenant said that the Board doesn't have a Plan showing where the tanks would be located. J. Flaherty replied that the Fire Chief has the Plans and he was sorry, but he didn't have a copy of the Plan with him.

Mr. Flaherty described the only place that the tanks could go was off the left front corner of the building underground, but probably 100 to 150 feet from Route 20. The Fire Chief recommended that Osterman go underground at that location due to the proximity of Route 20 and the building.

M. Suprenant asked if the tanks would serve other buildings on the site. J. Flaherty replied no, just the hotel. M. Suprenant asked why 3 tanks rather than one 3,000-gallon tank? Mr. Flaherty said that the hotel's peak load required 3 vaporizers, three 1,000-gallon tanks costs less than one 3,000-gallon tank (which would have to be special ordered) and for safety in the event of a problem one tank could be isolated. M. Suprenant asked how far apart the tanks would be from each other. J. Flaherty said that the tanks would be 3 feet apart and 75 feet from the building.

C. Moran asked if the tanks would be new or something from Osterman's inventory. J. Flaherty and P. Yacobucci both quickly replied brand new,

M. Suprenant asked if the tanks would be protected from vehicular traffic. J. Flaherty replied that they would be protected in accordance with NFPA Standards, there will be crash protection with concrete bollards or a wood guard rail.

Motion: **To close the Public Hearing By: P. Gimas**
2nd: **By C. Moran**

Vote: **Passed 5-0; All in Favor**

Motion: **To approve the Underground Storage Tank Application for the Holiday Inn Express at 21 New Boston Road as recommended by the Sturbridge Fire Department, and that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to sign the License on behalf of the Board By: P. Gimas**
2nd: **By C. Moran**

Vote: **Passed 5-0; All in Favor**

M. Blanchard asked L. Gaumond to continue with the Town Administrator's Update at 7:16 pm.

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Town Administrator's Update - Continued

L. Gaumond presented a Draft Policy Governing the Use of Social Media within the Town for review by the Board offering to answer any questions on the Policy. M. Blanchard asked whether everyone has had a chance to read it. Some of the Selectmen had not read the document so Mrs. Blanchard asked L. Gaumond to place the Use of Social Media Policy on the next Meeting Agenda.

M. Dowling said that it was excellent that the Town Administrator was initiating a Social Media Policy. L. Gaumond said the Board of Selectmen had asked him at the beginning of the calendar year to review and update the Town's Policies and Procedures.

At the request of P. Gimás the Town Administrator submitted Draft Policies on the Role of the Town Administrator and the Role of the Board of Selectmen. L. Gaumond read some important sections of the proposed Policy. M. Blanchard asked if there were any questions.

C. Moran expressed concern over the Selectmen's Policy that they will refrain from involvement in day to day operations. Mr. Moran felt that he should be able to report minor problems directly to a Department Head rather than involving the Town Administrator. L. Gaumond explained that was not exactly what the Policy says. C. Moran said that he was elected to represent the people and why should he take up the Town Administrator's valuable time with minor issues.

P. Gimás said that this Policy is an attempt to prevent what has happen in the past where certain Selectmen would tell Town employees what to do, when to do it and how to do it. M. Blanchard said that she stops by the Center Office Building frequently just to say hello, but if there is an issue to be addressed she always runs it through the Town Administrator. When questioned by P. Gimás, L. Gaumond replied that one member of the Board of Selectmen cannot act alone.

C. Moran persisted with the notion that he could act as a private citizen. M. Dowling said that in the past some Selectmen extremely abused their relationship with Town employees. M. Suprenant said that this Policy is very important because without any rules, we as Selectmen could exert undue political pressure on Town employees. C. Moran agreed but added that the Town Administrator is here maybe 8 hours 5 days per week, but Mr. Moran is in Town 24 hour per day, so his Office is like a Selectmen's Office. M. Blanchard replied that L. Gaumond may be here certain hours, but he is always on the job.

After some further debate all agreed that this matter should be discussed at a Selectmen's Retreat. L. Gaumond suggested that the Selectmen submit any comments to him, and he would put them together for future discussion.

L. Gaumond announced that Madeline Robidoux was approved for the Senior Work-off Program but however will have someone working on her behalf.

Motion: **To appoint Madeline Robidoux to the Senior Work-off Program By: P. Gimás**
2nd: **By M. Dowling**

Vote: **Passed 5-0; All in Favor**

L. Gaumond announced that the Town had received a Technical Assistance Grant from DEP to assist with a study of the feasibility curbside trash pickup versus the operation of the landfill. L. Gaumond acknowledged the help of the Board of Health and Irene Congdon from the MassDEP Central Regional Office.

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L. Gaumont asked the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift of \$1,100.00 on behalf of the Library. It is a donation from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Motion: To accept a gift from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,100.00 By:
M. Suprenant
2nd: By C. Moran

Vote: Passed 5-0; All in Favor

M. Blanchard asked if the gift was going into the Charles & Rose Ciaffone Fund, and L. Gaumont confirmed that it was.

L. Gaumont reported the results of the Property Auction. All of the properties with the exception of 35A Champeaux Road were sold at the Auction. The results were as follows:

8 Birch Street	\$ 180,000
367 New Boston Road	\$ 160,000
Warren Road	\$ 35,000
Brookfield Road/Paradise Lane	\$ 22,500
35-37 Ladd Road	\$ 17,500
35-37 Ladd Road	\$ 17,000
29-33 Ladd Road	\$ 21,000
258 Holland Road	\$ 2,500
Grand Total for the Auction	\$ 455,500

L. Gaumont thanked Barbra Barry and Town Counsel for putting the Auction together, and also thanked all those who attended and bid on the properties

L. Gaumont asked that the Selectmen accept the Injured On-Duty Case in the Selectmen's package.

Motion: To accept the Injured On-Duty Case before the Board of Selectmen By: P. Gimas
2nd: By C. Moran

Vote: Passed 5-0; All in Favor

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the Correspondence List.

M. Dowling asked whether the Planning Board had received a copy of the Petition on CVS not using Fairgrounds Road for their main access. M. Suprenant stated that if the Petition was to limit the use of a public way then the Board of Selectmen is required to hold a Public Hearing regarding the matter. M. Blanchard said that a hearing was not required.

L. Gaumont said that he could forward the Petition to the Planning Board. P. Gimas pointed out that access was there for Piccadilly's and more recently for Bentley's. L. Gaumont said that he would respond to the Petitioners as requested by M. Blanchard and M. Dowling.

M. Blanchard asked about correspondence regarding a bridge inspection rating of 6, which L. Gaumont confirmed.

M. Blanchard inquired whether the Town Administrator was working on the plumbing problems at the Sturbridge Cooperative Nursey School. P. Gimas noted that there had been toilet issues there in the past. M. Blanchard asked if the Town had insurance to help with the repair cost and L. Gaumont replied that he would check into it.

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Old Business

C. Moran asked about the status of the Riverlands. M. Dowling said that the Selectmen agreed that the Riverlands would not be open to the public until the warning signs were in place around the contaminated area. L. Gaumond said that he would check with the Conservation Agent regarding placement of the signs.

New Business

M. Blanchard brought up the subject of early voting. L. Gaumond offered ask the Town Clerk to come to the next Selectmen's Meeting to explain early voting. P. Gimás said that the Town Clerk was thinking of having an informational meeting on early voting some evening or on a Saturday.

M. Suprenant suggest that information on early voting should also be on the Town website and cable television. P. Gimás pointed out that the bulletin board on cable television was not up to date. M. Suprenant said that the Town Charter required things like vacancies to be on cable television. L. Gaumond said that he would look into it.

C. Moran said that earlier in the meeting the Board voted to require National Grid to move some poles that were too close to the edge of the road, but he didn't think that National Grid is responsible for the poles because it is Verizon that sets the poles in Sturbridge.

Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting By: P. Gimás
2nd: By C. Moran

Vote: Passed 5-0; All in Favor

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Michael G. Suprenant, Member of the Board of Selectmen

Mary Dowdy 3/19/18
BOS Clerk Date