

**Board of Selectmen**  
**May 2, 2022**  
**Town Hall**  
**Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall**  
**308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566**

**Present:**

Chase Kaitbenski, Vice Chair  
Selectman Mary Dowling, Clerk  
Selectman Jamie Goodwin  
Selectman Ian Dunnigan

**Absent:**

Mary Blanchard, Chair

**Staff:**

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator  
Michelle Garman, Executive Assistant

**Vice Chair Kaitbenski called meeting to order at 5:00p.m.**

**Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the agenda.**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Moment of Silence:** For all those affected by Covid-19 the people of Ukraine and innocent Russian people.

**Public Service Announcements:**

- Sturbridge Tourist Association Completes Creation of New Tourism Web Site
- Community Food Collaborative 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Workday at the Garden
- The Sturbridge Police Department received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State 911 Department for their enduring commitment and tireless efforts.

**Action Items:**

- A. Consideration and possible action on the Town Administrator contract with Robin A. Grimm.

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator advised the Board that the contract negotiations with Mrs. Grimm went smoothly and that with the signing of the contract her start date would be May 31, 2022.

**Motion: To approve the agreement between the Town of Sturbridge and Robin A. Grimm**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- B. Consideration and possible action on Sturbridge Community-wide Historic Preservation Contract with Public Archeology, Inc. in the amount of \$35,000.00.

**Motion: To accept the contact with Public Archeology, Inc. in the amount of \$35,000.00.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**All in Favor**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- C. Consideration and possible action on the Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article.

Ed Neal, Housing Partnership spoke to the Board and gave a detailed description of the Affordable Housing Trust starting from its conception.

Selectman Goodwin stated it seems like bylaw takes away from the final say from the Town Meeting. Any allocation of money from the Trust would be the final say of whom ever is on the Trust.

Selectman Dowling asked was that discussed with the bylaw that it would not go back to Town Meeting anymore only go in front of the Selectmen.

The Board stated they would discuss again, when they review the Annual Town Meeting Articles.

- D. Consideration and possible action on the layout and acceptance of the cul-de-sac at the end of Hillside Drive.

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator updated the Board this was voted at a previous Town Meeting and was not recorded. Due to it not being recorded in a timely manner, it now has to go back to Town Meeting.

Vice Chair Kairbenski asked are we pushing this until the next meeting for a layout hearing.

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator stated yes.

- E. Consideration and possible action on a one day liquor license for Brimfield Winery for July 23, 2022 on the Sturbridge Town Common for the Joshua Hyde Library 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Motion: To approve the one day liquor license for Brimfield Winery for July 23, 2022 on the Sturbridge Town Common for the Joshua Hyde Library 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from 12:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 3-0-1 (Chair Blanchard-Absent) (Selectman Dowling abstained)**

- F. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Thomas Hine to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time Police Officer.

Chief Dessert introduced Thomas Hine and gave a detailed description of his background.

**Motion: To approve Thomas Hine to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time Police Office, effective May 3, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$34.36 with the benefits of a three-year employee excluding longevity.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- G. Consideration and possible action on the promotion of Jonathan Becker to the rank of Fire Lieutenant with Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$36.30 per hour.

Chief Grasso introduced Jonathan Becker and gave a detailed description of his background.

**Motion: To approve the promotion of Jonathan Becker to the rank of Fire Lieutenant with Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$36.30 per hour.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- H. Consideration and Possible action on the appointment of Michael Ashe as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$23.29 per hour.

Chief Grasso introduced Michael Ashe and gave a detailed description of his background.

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Michael Ashe as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$23.29 per hour.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- I. Consideration and Possible action on the appointment of Jay Marcoaldi as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$20.84 per hour.

Chief Grasso introduced Jay Marcoaldi and gave a detailed description of his background.

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Jay Marcoaldi as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Sturbridge Fire Department effective May 3, 2022 at the rate of pay \$20.84 per hour.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- J. Consideration and possible action on the Maple Street Waterline Replacement contract with Ricciardi Bros., Inc. in the amount of \$433,612.97.

**Motion: To approve the contract for the Maple Street Waterline Replacement with Ricciardi Bros., Inc. in the amount of \$433,612.97.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- K. Consideration and possible action to approve and award the bid to HM Nunes & Sons Constructions, Inc. for the Grand Trunk Trail Project.

**Motion: To award the bid and approve the contract with HM Nuns & Sons Constructions, Inc., in the amount of \$719,486.50.**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- L. Consideration and possible action on hiring Anderson Kreiger for negotiations with Southbridge on the Wastewater Agreement.

**Motion: To accept the hiring of Anderson Kreiger for negotiations with Southbridge on the Wastewater Agreement.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

- M. Consideration and possible action to accept the donation to the Sturbridge Trails Committee from Yankee Spirits in the amount of \$250.00.

**Motion: To accept the donation to the Sturbridge Trails Committee from Yankee Spirits in the amount of \$250.00 with gratitude.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

N. Consideration and possible action on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Special Town Meeting Warrant

**Motion: To open the Warrant**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**ARTICLE 30- CAPITAL PLANNING BY LAW**

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator stated the language in this bylaw does not quite fit Sturbridge concerning some of the participants in the Capital Planning Committee. Mr. Reed and Barbara Barry, Finance Director had discussed refining the language and presenting it the Board as a part of their Finance Policies.

The Board agreed to striking article #30 from the Warrant.

**ARTICLE 32 - TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND PROJECT CERTIFICATION; NOBLE ENERGY**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft article summary of article #32

**Motion: Support and place article #32 as written**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**ARTICLE 33 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BY-LAW**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft article summary of article #33

**Motion: Place article #33**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dowling**

**Vote: 3-1-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent) (Selectman Goodwin opposed)**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE – PURCHASE PROPERTY AT 7 MAIN STREET**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary for 7 Main Street.

**Motion: To place the article number TBD for 7 Main Street in the amount of \$70,000.00**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-1-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent) (Selectman Goodwin opposed)**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE – TRANSFER OF LAND ON CEDAR STREET**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary transfer of land on Cedar Street

**Motion: To place and support the article titled transfer of land on Cedar Street**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dowling**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE - SALE OR LEASE OF 8 BROOKFIELD ROAD**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary sale or lease of 8 Brookfield Road.

**Motion: To place the sale or lease of 8 Brookfield**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-1-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent) (Selectman Goodwin opposed)**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE – TAX RATE RELIEF**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary tax rate relief.

**Motion: To insert \$350,000.00 for tax relief**

**By: Selectman Dowling**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 2-2-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent) Selectman Dowling – Yes, Selectman Goodwin – Yes, Selectman Dunnigan – No, Vice Chair Kaitbenski - No**

**Motion does not carry**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE - FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC PARKING LOT AT 501 MAIN STREET**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary funding for the construction of a public parking lot at 501 Main Street.

**Motion: To place and support**

**By: Selectman Dowling**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Goodwin**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE - REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF LIBRARY HVAC SYSTEM**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary repair and replacement of library HVAC System.

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator gave a brief description of the scope of work and the cost of the project the scope of work has changed and it will take some time for additional numbers for the cost of work.

Vice Chair Kaitbenski asked will the numbers be available for the next meeting and this placeholder article be held until that meeting.

The Board agreed to hold this until the next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE – REMOVE AND REPLACE PLANT MEDIA AT WATER PLANT**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft placeholder article summary remove and replace plant media at water plant.

The Board agreed to hold this until the next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE – SEWER DEPARTMENT GENERATOR**

The Board agreed to hold this until the next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

**PLACE HOLDER ARTICLE - FISKE HILL PUMP STATION AND FORCE MAIN PROJECT**

The Board agreed to hold this until the next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

**PETITIONED ARTICLE**

The Board agreed to hold this until the next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

**Motion: To Close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**Motion: To open Special Town Meeting Warrant**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**ARTICLE 50 TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO LAST CALL FOUNDATION GRANT**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski read the full draft article summary of article #50

**Motion: To place and support article #50**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**Motion: to close Special Town Warrant**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard-Absent)**

**Old Business:**

Vice Chair Kaitbenski thanked the staff at Burgess Elementary and the Custodial staff for all of their hard work on the fields.

**New Business**

**Correspondence**

**Approval of Minutes: February 22, 2022**

**Motion: To approve minutes of February 22, 2022 as written**

**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Chair Blanchard – Absent)**

**Citizen's Forum**

**Adjourn:**

**Motion: To Adjourn**


**By: Selectman Goodwin**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 5-0-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:10p.m.**

**Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman**

**Clerk of the Board:** 

**Date signed:** 8/2/22