

**Board of Selectmen
April 19, 2022
Town Hall
Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall
308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566**

RECEIVED

MAY 22 P. 2:13

TOWN CLERK
STURBRIDGE, MA

Present:

Mary Blanchard
Mary Dowling
Chase Kaitbenski
Ian Dunnigan
Jamie Goodwin

Staff:

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator
Michelle Garman, Executive Assistant

**Chair Blanchard called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.
The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Moment of Silence

All those affected by COVID, for the people of Ukraine

Public Service Announcements

Re-Organization of the Board of Selectman

Mary Blanchard nominated for Chair of the Board of Selectmen

By: Chase Kaitbenski

2nd: Mary Dowling

Vote: 5-0-0

Chase Kaitbenski nominated for Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen

By: Mary Blanchard

2nd: Ian Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

Mary Dowling nominated for Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

By: Mary Blanchard

2nd: Chase Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

Chair Blanchard read the agenda

Public Hearing: Hamilton Rod and Gun Club

- A. Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, Inc., has applied for a Change or Alteration of Premises Information to include the grounds consisting of open field, horseshoe & cornhole areas on the property located at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge.

Motion: To close the public hearing

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: To approve the application for Change or Alteration of Premises Information to include the grounds consisting of open field, horseshoe & cornhole areas on the property located at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge.

By: Selectman Dunnigan

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

Vote: 5-0-0

Department Report:

Leslie Wong, Council on Aging Director, gave a brief description of her department report, a copy of which is on file in the Town Administrators Office.

Action Items:

Consideration and possible action on a portion of Hillside Drive as a Town Way

Motion: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote its intention to lay out a portion of Hillside Drive as a town way, as shown on the layout plan entitled "Town Street Acceptance Plan of Hillside Drive Laid Out by the Selectmen, Town of Sturbridge, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts," dated April 14, 2022, prepared by Joseph I. Levesque, III – Levesque Geomatics, Inc. – 43 Glendale Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518, and that the Board of Selectmen forward the layout petition and plan to the Planning Board for its comments and recommendations pursuant to G.L. c. 41, §§ 81G and 81I.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on the rate of pay for Jennifer Ashe and Sean Moynagh recently promoted to rank of lieutenant. The correct rate of pay should be \$36.30 per hour. Jennifer Ashe retroactive to March 8, 2022.

Motion: To approve the rate of pay for Jennifer Ashe and Sean Moynagh recently promoted to rank of lieutenant. The correct rate of pay should be \$36.30 per hour. Jennifer Ashe will be retroactive to March 8, 2022.

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski
2nd: Selectman Dunnigan
Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action to accept the resignation from Lieutenant Eric Riendeau from the Sturbridge Fire Department effective April 29, 2022

Motion: To accept the resignation from Lieutenant Eric Riendeau from the Sturbridge Fire Department effective April 29, 2022 with regret.

By: Selectman Dunnigan
2nd: Selectman Goodwin
Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on the Arbor Day Proclamation

Motion: To sign the Arbor Day Proclamation

By: Selectman Goodwin
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on Westwood Drive lots 32, 33 & 35

Motion: To approve the sewer hook-up for Westwood Drive lots 32, 33 & 35

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski
2nd: Selectman Dunnigan
Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on the Screens at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Shane Moody, Veolia, stated screen number two had a major mechanical failure. These screens are large pieces of equipment this screen is ten years old with over eighty thousand hours. He does not have the cost of the repair yet from the company.

Chair Blanchard asked if he would like the Board to approve the costs of the repair.

Mr. Moody would have to come back in front of the Board when he has the costs of the repair. The estimated repair cost is currently fifty thousand dollars.

Consideration and possible action on Tighe & Bond on the Main Street Pump Station and Sewer line project

Jennifer Miller, Project Manager with Tighe & Bond, went through the presentation covering the background, project components, Main Street Pump Station, project permitting, a copy of which is on file in the Town Administrators Office.

Selectman Goodwin stated we have to negotiate with Southbridge and should have those numbers before we can make a decision. That is the first step is to know what each year costs staying with Southbridge.

Selectman Dowling stated we have no knowledge what we will have to pay Southbridge and requested firm numbers.

Vice Chair Kaitbenski asked if Southbridge would negotiate a shorter agreement while we consider this situation.

Motion: To retain counsel to negotiate with the town of Southbridge a successor sewer agreement immediately to define all the variables.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dowling

Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on Main Street Pump Station

No votes taken

Consideration and possible action on Sewer/Water Rates and Connection Fees

Chair Blanchard read a memorandum from Barbara Barry, Finance Director regarding the rate increase.

Selectmen Goodwin asked how much is this going to effect the median household.

Barbara Barry said there really is no average; every household has different amounts of usage.

Motion: To approve adopt the purposed rates for water \$7.18 and for sewer \$12.45, effective quarter ended June 30, 2022.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

Consideration and possible action on scheduling interviews for Town Administrator Finalist's

Chase Kaitbenski gave a brief description on the process of the Town Administrator Search committee and its members.

The search committee conducted seven interviews on April 1, 2022, four finalists were selected one of the finalist withdrew his application.

- Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D.
 - Current Town Manager in Stoughton, MA
 - Previously the Director of Administration in Cranston, RI
 - Served as CEO in Providence
 - Director of Administrative Service in South Kingstown, RI
- Rebecca Meekins
 - Current Assistant Town Administrator in Northborough, MA
 - Previous Assistant Town Administrator in Grafton, MA
- Katelyn O'Brien
 - Current Assistant Town Administrator of Dover, MA
 - Previous Economic Development Coordinator in Westborough

Dowling would like the record to reflect that she would like to be at the interviews but this is her holy week and she is disappointed that the dates for the interviews cannot be moved to a later date.

Chair Blanchard made the suggestion that Selectman Dowling can call the candidates prior to the meeting.

Consideration and possible action on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- Held until next Board Meeting

Consideration and possible action on Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- Held until next Board Meeting

Old Business:

New Business

Correspondence

Approval of Minutes: February 22, 2022

- Held until next Board Meeting

Citizen's Forum

Leslie Wong, 30 Westwood Drive, Sturbridge wanted to know why the tie in rate is different than when the residents of Westwood Drive originally tied into the sewer line.

Chair Blanchard stated the original tie in happened those residents received a betterment. The cost of the sewer was divided by the number of homes when it was initially completed. Now when new homes are built the homeowner connects and has to pay a sewer privilege fee plus connection fees.

Executive Session: Per M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares

Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn into executive session and not to reconvene in open session

By: Selectman Dowling

2nd: Selectma Goodwin

Vote: Chair Blanchard – Yes, Vice Chair Kaitbenski – Yes, Selectman Dowling – Yes, Selectmen Dunnigan – Yes, Selectman Goodwin - Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman

Clerk of the Board: Mary Dowling

Date signed: May 15 '23