

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

Present:

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

Staff:

Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator
Michelle M. Garman, Executive Assistant

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

Moment of Silence

For all those affected by war, fires, Covid-19 and flooding.

Chris Tieri from Old Sturbridge Village presented the 75th Anniversary plate to the Town of Sturbridge.

Continuation of Public Hearing

Concord Brewery, Inc., d/b/a Rapsallion for a change or alteration of premises information at the premises currently located at 484 Main Street, Sturbridge.

Motion: To close the public hearing

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: To approve the application of Concord Brewery, Inc., d/b/a Rapsallion for a change or alteration of premises information at the premises currently located at 484 Main Street, Sturbridge.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dowling

Vote: 5-0-0

Continuation of Public Hearing

Transfer of a Class II and Class III dealer's license from Curboy Auto Inc., to Braca LLC/IAA Corp for 71 Mashapaug Road, Sturbridge.

Chair Blanchard stated she would like to close the public hearing and deny the transfer and have them re-apply. There is no representative from Braca, LLC/IAA the Board has not been provided any more information the only information was from the applicants counsel stating they applicant wanted to proceed with the information they have previously provided.

Selectman Dowling agreed with Chair Blanchard's comments and she feels that the Board has been more than patient and the information provided is lacking.

Selectmen Goodwin stated it is inappropriate to file an application and not communicate with the Board for two months and send an email the day of the hearing stating they would not be at the public hearing. We have residents that have come to the meeting because they care about their neighborhood and it is unprofessional for the applicant not show up. If the applicant bring this application back to the Board, they need to be more prepared.

Motion: To close public hearing and deny the application for license transfer

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dowling

Vote: 5-0-0

Town Administrator Update

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator stated a Pastor of a Church in Charlton who is looking to start a regional street hockey league approached her. She reached out to Selectmen Dunnigan looking to see if there is a need in the Town for this type of league.

Selectman Dunnigan feels there will be a lot of interest from the residents of the town for this type of league.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator would like to draft a letter of support to the pastor with the Boards support. She confirmed there would be no price difference for residents of Sturbridge it would be equal for Sturbridge residents and Charlton residents.

Chair Blanchard stated the Board would like to see the letter and it should be support of the concept of the league.

Department Reports – Water/Sewer

Shane Moody, Chief Operator gave a detailed description of his department report. A copy of which is on file in the Town Administrators office.

Action Items:

- A. Consideration and possible action on a Common Victualler License for Gido's Brick Oven Pizza, Inc.,

Motion: To approve Common Victualler License for Gido's Brick Oven Pizza, Inc., contingent upon receipt of the plans for the outdoor patio.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- B. Consideration and possible action on the Change in Manager Application filed by Chung May, Inc. d/b/a Kahula Restaurant from Kim Chuen Chan to Stephen Chan.

Motion: To approve the Change in Manager Application filed by Chung May, Inc. d/b/a Kahula Restaurant from Kim Chuen Chan to Stephen Chan.

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

- C. Consideration and possible action for the Board to authorize the Chair to execute the contract with F&N Contractors LLC in the amount of \$31,297.00 dollars for the Town Hall Storm Window Project.

Motion: To authorize the Chair to execute the contract with F&N Contractors LLC in the amount of \$31,297.00 dollars for the Town Hall Storm Window Project.

By: Selectman Dunnigan

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- D. Consideration and possible action to ratify stipend for the Finance Director.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator advised the Board that over the Labor Day Weekend we had an emergency to get payroll processed. There was a large number of school hiring's come in and the Finance Department being short staffed for approximately a month with no one knowing how to do payroll for the Town except Barbara Barry, Finance Director who also had to upload all the new hires to the system.

Chair Blanchard stated she has a problem with this situation. She stated when you are a salaried employee you are salaried. She stated that the Finance Director has hired temporary staff to come in and help.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator stated the temporary help does come in Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Chair Blanchard stated she is going to abstain on the voting. She feels it sets a bad precedence for the other salaried employees that do a lot of extra work and ask for nothing because they understand the meaning of a salaried position.

Vice Chair Kaitbenski is concerned with the precedence moving forward with other salaried employees. The Town Planner and Town Clerk come in and work extra hours several times and he feel this sets a precedence that we want to start.

Selectman Dowling how did we arrive at this amount of money for the stipend? She stated she would be prepared to do this in other departments if they found themselves in a similar situation but she wants to know how we came to this amount.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator stated the consultant that is currently helping is at a fee of \$75.00 an hour so the Finance Director put in for \$100.00 an hour for the twenty hours she worked that weekend.

Selectmen Goodwin stated that he agrees with the Board's concerns and he feels we need to have a structured approach to a situation like this.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator stated she could not mandate someone come in on the weekends. The Finance Director does come in a work full days the challenge that she was facing on this situation was the Assistant Treasurer that left handled payroll and left a lot not completed, per what she was told.

Motion: To ratify the \$2,100.00 stipend for the Finance Director

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 4-0-1 (Chair Blanchard abstained)

- E. Consideration and possible action on the selection of a Board of Selectmen representative to sit on the Housing Partnership Committee for a term to expire September 6, 2024.

Motion: To nominate Jamie Goodwin to the Housing Partnership Committee for a term to expire September 6, 2024 and Ian Dunnigan as a backup.

By: Selectman Dowling

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- F. Consideration and possible action to appoint Larry Morrison to the Personnel Committee for a term to expire September 19, 2025.

Motion: To appoint Larry Morrison to the Personnel Committee for the remainder of the term of Joni Light.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-0

- G. Consideration and possible action to appoint Paula Kopacz, Ph.D., to the Sturbridge Lakes Association Committee as the Leadmine Lake Association Representative for a term to expire September 19, 2025.

Motion: To appoint Paula Kopacz, Ph.D., to the Sturbridge Lakes Association Committee as the Leadmine Lake Association Representative for a term to expire on a date to be determined.

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

- H. Consideration and possible action to re-appoint Thomas Chamberland to the Trails Committee for a term to expire September 19, 2025.

Motion: To re-appoint Thomas Chamberland to the Trails Committee from the date of his previous term to expire September 19, 2025

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

- I. Consideration and possible action to accept the letter of resignation from part-time Firefighter Anthony Gianfriddo. His resignation is effective September 13, 2022.

Motion: To accept the letter of resignation from part-time Firefighter Anthony Gianfriddo with regret effective September 13, 2022.

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

- J. Consideration and possible action to accept a donation in the amount of \$200.00 dollars from CMG Environmental of 67 Hall Road, Sturbridge to the Sturbridge Fire Department.

Motion: To accept the donation of \$200.00 dollars from CMG Environmental of 67 Hall Road, Sturbridge with Thanks.

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

- K. Consideration and possible action on the application for a Transient Vendor License for Wendy Collings/Collins Gift for the Doll and Bear Show at the Sturbridge Host Hotel on October 2, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Motion: To approve Transient Vendor License for Wendy Collings/Collins Gift for the Doll and Bear Show at the Sturbridge Host Hotel on October 2, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

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

- L. Consideration and possible action on Hawker and Peddler license for Alexandra Aviles representative for Trinity Solar.

Motion: To approve the Hawker and Peddler license for Alexandra Aviles with mask requirement and timeframe of dusk to dawn.

By: Selectman Dunnigan

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business

Selectman Dowling asked about exit interview. She stated we use to do them for a long time and we need to start doing them again moving forward. It is nice to know why an employee is leaving.

Chair Blanchard stated it is very valuable to have voluntary exit interviews.

Selectman Dowling stated it would be nice to know the reason why we are losing a long-term employee.

New Business

Correspondence

Approval of Minutes

July 18, 2022

Motion: To approve with corrections

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Dunnigan

Vote: 5-0-2 (Selectman Goodwin and Selectman Dowling abstained)

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 go into executive session and not to reconvene in open session

By: Selectman Dowling

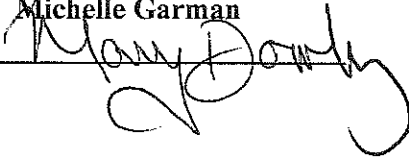
2nd: Selectman Goodwin

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman

Clerk of the Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Doherty", written over a horizontal line.

Date signed: Nov 7 '22