

**Board of Selectmen
September 5, 2023
Town Hall
Veteran's Memorial Hall, Town Hall
308 Main Street, Sturbridge**

This meeting is available online at:

<https://sturbridge.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=13a918ac-c040-4a59-8250-350c7c4b8ef8>

Present:

Jamie Goodwin, Chair
Chase Kaitbenski, Vice Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Selectman Mary Blanchard
Selectman MaryLou Volpe

Staff:

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

Chair Goodwin called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Chair Goodwin read the agenda.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Mary O'Coin, Executive Director United Way

Mary O'Coin, Executive Director for United Way spoke to the Board of Selectmen and gave a brief description of how the United Way raises funds.

Public Hearing

An application has been filed by Hyland Orchard, Inc., for an Alteration of Premises for the premises located at 195 Arnold Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518.

Donald Damon, General Manager addressed the Board of Selectmen and explained why they are looking for an alteration of premises for the property located at 195 Arnold Road, Sturbridge.

Motion: To Close Public Hearing

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: To Approve the Alteration of premises for Hyland Orchard, Inc., for the premises located at 195 Arnold Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard
2nd: Selectman MaryLou Volpe
Vote: 5-0-0

Town Administrator Update

- Immigrant Placement – Administrator Grimm advised the Board on the migrant situation which is currently not all confirmed information the State hasn't been providing actual information regarding exactly how many families are placed in Sturbridge. With the Governor declaring a State of Emergency the Town doesn't have a choice.

The State is engaging in a business transaction with the individual hotels. The State of Emergency allows the Governor the authority to extend the 30-day hotel stay. The Governor has the authority through the State of Emergency to override the Towns By-Laws.

- Big-Alum Dock Permits – Upon a review of the docks on Big Alum there are no permits for those docks. Next year we will revisit the dock permits and the Selectmen's policies.
- Mary White Memorial - On the Common there will be a birdhouse.
- Applicant for School Board Committee vacancy.
- Veterans Agent son – Need a letter from Robin to sign on a temporary veterans agent.

Department Reports

- Police Department –

Earl Dessert, Chief of Police gave a detailed description of his department report a copy of which is on file in the Town Administrators Office.

- Fire Department -

John Grasso, Fire Chief, 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 the appointment of Benjamin Grasso as a full-time dispatcher with the Sturbridge Police Department effective September 6, 2023, with the hourly rate of \$22.90.

The Board of Selectmen advised Chief Grasso to file a disclosure with the Town Clerks Office.

Motion: To appoint Benjamin Grasso as a full-time dispatcher with the Sturbridge Police Department effective September 6, 2023, with the hourly rate of \$22.90.

By: Selectman MaryLou Volpe
2nd: Selectman Mary Blanchard
Vote: 5-0-0

- B. Consideration and possible action to withdraw the letter of resignation from full-time Dispatcher Trevor Bresse, previously voted and accepted on August 21, 2023 by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: To approve the withdrawal the letter of resignation from full-time Dispatcher Trevor Bresse, previously voted and accepted on August 21, 2023 by the Board of Selectmen.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Selectman MaryLou Volpe

Vote: 5-0-0

- C. Consideration and possible action on an application for a special one-day alcoholic beverage license for Deep Roots Distillery, USA for the Harvest Fest 2023, sponsored by the Central Massachusetts South Chamber of Commerce on October 14, 2023 from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. and October 15, 2023 from 11:00a.m. and 4:00p.m.

Motion: To approve application for a special one-day alcoholic beverage license for Deep Roots Distillery, USA for the Harvest Fest 2023, sponsored by the Central Massachusetts South Chamber of Commerce on October 14, 2023 from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. and October 15, 2023 from 11:00a.m. and 4:00p.m.

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Mary Blanchard

Vote: 4-0-1 (Mary Dowling Abstained)

- D. Consideration and possible action an application for change of manager for Old Sturbridge Inc., d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village on their liquor license from Lisa Anne Hartigan to Michael Edward Heenan.

Motion: To approve the application for change of manager for Old Sturbridge Inc., d/b/a Old Sturbridge Village on their liquor license from Lisa Anne Hartigan to Michael Edward Heenan.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 4-1-0 (Chair Goodwin opposed)

- E. Consideration and possible action on as application for a Hawker & Peddler license for Rasta-Sela Wright, for Paramount/Clearway Community Solar.

Applicant withdrew application – No action taken

- F. Consideration and possible action on an application for a Common Victuller with Bring your own bottle "BYOB" for Sonila Ushe/Churchill's Village located at 450 Main Street, Fiskdale.

Sonila Ushe, explained to the Board that they would now like to open a few nights for dinner and would like to have the BYOB option for their customers.

Motion: To approve the application for a Common Victuller with Bring your own bottle "BYOB" for Sonila Ushe/Churchill's Village located at 450 Main Street, Fiskdale.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Vice Chase Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- G. Consideration and possible action on the selection of a Board of Selectmen representative and alternate for the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for fiscal year 2024.

Motion: To appoint Jamie Goodwin as the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission delegate for fiscal year 2024 and Mary Dowling as the alternative delegate.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- H. Consideration and possible action to accept the letter of resignation from full-time Dispatcher Crystal Comtois, effective September 13, 2023.

Motion: To accept the letter of resignation from full-time Dispatcher Crystal Comtois, effective September 13, 2023.

By: Selectman Mary Blanchard

2nd: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0-0

- I. Consideration and possible action on the grinder pump repair charges for John Marr at 17 Old Hamilton Road, Sturbridge.

The Board wanted to know exactly what the resident had to move for Veolia to access the grinder pump.

No action taken, this matter will be reconsidered after more information obtained and presented to the Board. The Board also requested a representative from Veolia be present at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

- J. Consideration and possible action on the selection of a Board of Selectmen member to attend the virtual CMMPO meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5:30p.m.

Motion: To select Jamie Goodwin attend the virtual CMMPO meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5:30p.m.

By: Chair Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Mary Blanchard

Vote: 5-0-0

- K. Consideration and possible action to confirm the promotion of David Lamontagne from Senior Heavy Equipment Operator to Crew Leader for the Department of Public Works at the hourly rate of \$34.45.

Motion: To approve the promotion of David Lamontagne from Senior Heavy Equipment Operator to Crew Leader for the Department of Public Works at the hourly rate of \$34.45.

By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman MaryLou Volpe

Vote: 5-0-0

- L. Consideration and possible action on an application for a one-day liquor license for Uno Chicago Grill – Dorothy Wegiael, General Manager for September 9, 2023 from 2:00p.m. till 9:00p.m. for a Brews and Car Cruise Tap Takeover from 7 Saws Brewing Company.

No action taken

- M. Consideration and possible action for the Board of Selectmen to Authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Tighe & Bond Engineering Services for the Sturbridge Wastewater Treatment Facility Clarifier Repairs in the amount of \$39,700.00.

Motion: To approve Board of Selectmen to Authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Tighe & Bond Engineering Services for the Sturbridge Wastewater Treatment Facility Clarifier Repairs in the amount of \$39,700.00.

By: Selectman MaryLou Volpe

2nd: Selectman Mary Blanchard

Vote: 5-0-0

Citizen's Forum

Keith Deverene, resident of Sturbridge wanted clarification on the immigrants are they legal or not.

Administrator Grimm stated that we are limited on information that has been provided to us by the State.

Mr. Deverene wanted to know are they families or individuals.

Chairman Goodwin, advised that that Administrator Grimm, is providing information as she is receiving it from the Governor's Office.

Old Business:

- Application for a Dock permit – 243 Big Alum – Ronald Peterson -

Mary Dowling at an older meeting we discussed that we were renting space on our water tower. She feels that this is a public policy discussion for the Board. She feels the Board should sign the lease or at least authorize the Chair. She would like to see why KP Law is stating this is not public policy.

Administrator Grimm will have KP Law review and advise as to why this is not public policy.

Selectman Dowling would like this to be a public policy. In other Towns, residents are concerned with health issues.

Selectman Mary Blanchard – Evaluation for the Town Administrator

- Administrator Grimm requested that during her evaluation process the Board speak to all employees not just a few.

Selectman Dowling stated she usually sends an email to all Department Heads regarding the Administrator's evaluation. The vast majority will reply but some just don't reply. Dowling stated that they set her goals in January and it is only a few months into her goals.

Selectman Blanchard feels that the Board has missed this year and that the evaluation is usually complete by April. Administrator Grimm should provide the Board with her current goals.

Vice Chair Kaitbenski would like to have the Administrator goal sheet updated that the current one we use is outdated and he would like the Board of Selectmen to review and update.

New Business:

No new business

Correspondence

Selectmen Dowling -Old Farm email correspondence regarding the water tower.

Vice Chair Kaitbeksiki read an email from the Youth Football league.

Approval of Minutes

Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn

By: Chair Goodwin

2nd: Selectman MaryLou Volpe

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:06p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman

Clerk of the Board: Mary Dowling

Date signed: Nov 6'23