

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 7, 2018**

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OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK
STURBRIDGE, MA

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator
Colleen King, Administrative Assistant

Open Session

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board members stood for the pledge.

*Chairman Blanchard announced that Craig Semon of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette is recording the meeting.

Vote to Discontinue Accuvote & Commence with Image Case Vote Tabulation

Secretary of State requires the Board of Selectmen officially vote on discontinuing the use of Accuvote and changing the use to Image Case Voter Tabulation. The Town Clerk, Lynne Girouard was present for any questions.

Motion: I move to discontinue the use of Accuvote and commence use of Image Case Voter Tabulation pursuant to Chapter 54, Section 34, effective September 4, 2018.

By: P. Gimás

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in favor: 5-0

Update: Barrett Farm Estates Subdivision & Sewer Extension - Bertin Engineering

Frank Bicchieri of Bertin Engineering rep owner and Andre Cormier of Barrett Estates. Doudy Road (a scenic road) was cleared; however too many trees (approximately 200 in violation; which did not include brush and some trees that would have been taken down) were removed, as a result they have filed with the Conservation Commission for the violation. M. Dowling stated with respect to the tree violations, she hoped the sub-contractor would monitor this in the future and was told that they would. DPW and Water/Sewer recommended a conventional pump system for sewer extension plans. The sewer extension plans are also being revised to include a water main line and booster pump station. In the next few weeks they will be finalizing and submitting an ANR for the driveway lots. The applicant is requesting a grace period to maintain the sewer extension before expiration. The Town Administrator reminded the Board members that in

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voting for an extension they are reserving the sewer capacity in the event another big project applies; they may have to wait.

Motion: I move to grant an extension until end of August 31, 2018 for sewer extension permit.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

6:45 p.m. Public Hearing: National Grid (NGRID) - Three (3) SO Poles - 6 Publick House Rd, Sturbridge, MA

Kimberly Chaslite, of Worcester National Grid Office. Publick House putting in another building and needs to extend the line for 2 poles. Third pole is a stub pole for pole #6 across the street to support. Met w/ DPW. M. Suprenant stated the line could be constructed with one fewer pole.

Motion: I move to close hearing: By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimas

All in Favor: 5-0

Motion: I move to approve the National Grid petition of three poles on 6 Publick House Road as presented and approved by DPW.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

Fire Department Appointments

Fire Chief John Grasso opened up the meeting by recognizing and commending Firefighter Jennifer Ashe for pursuing a fitness grant. Town was awarded a \$2,000 fitness wellness grant for fitness equipment.

Chief Grasso presented: Town awarded federal grant to hire four (4) entry level fire fighters. Matthew Bonneau, Bryan Swanda, Emmanuel Martin, Justin Pike

Motion: I move to concur with the Fire Chief and appoint Bryan Swanda, Matthew Bonneau, Justin Pike, and Emmanuel Martin as Full Time Firefighters effective May 14, 2018 at Step 1 of the Union contract. By: P. Gimas

The Town Administrator asked for an amendment to the motion to inform the Board members that Bryan Swanda is currently a part-time firefighter with the Town and will be brought in at Step 2.

Motion: I move to include the amendment as stated by the Town Administrator.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in favor: 5-0

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Discussion: Half-Marathon in Town of Sturbridge - TeamHoyt

Kathy Boyer, Office Manager of TeamHoyt was present to speak and answer questions about the half marathon. L. Gaumond made a brief announcement regarding the kick off publicity tour for the half marathon Sunday, 9/9/18. In conjunction with Special Events Committee, an activity was sought and a road race idea was selected from a survey. Selectman M. Dowling had suggested the race event be in honor of Rick Hoyt, a resident of Sturbridge. Event will take place at the Town Common. Looking for runners, sign up on town website or TeamHoyt website.

M. Dowling stated that the team is looking for volunteers such as high school and youth organizations, etc. The race course will be a double loop circle around the Town Common. Accepting business sponsors to register and donate; go to the Town website. Dick Hoyt will attend a future meeting in the summer to do a presentation. Participation goal for the race is 300 runners.

Discussion: Warrant Article for Board of Health Title V Inspector Revolving Fund

Linda Cocalis, Board of Health Chairman, Bri Eichstaedt, Health Inspector, and Board of Health member, Richard Volpe. They requested the Board give reconsideration to the proposed warrant article. M. Dowling stated that currently, the Board of Selectmen members are split, there is no majority, but that she is in support and asked the board members to reconsider the details presented tonight. The revolving fund will be paid back with fees and is not actually totaling \$20k; only \$1,000 at a time is likely needed. M. Blanchard stated that everything is speculative at this point and even the fees have not been set. L. Cocalis stated that the fees are just about set; and will be 80/20. Ms. Cocalis further explained that the Town previously had a separate person, along with the town engineer, doing Title V work. P. Gimás stated she was in agreement w/ Chairman Blanchard and reminded L. Cocalis that she told the Selectmen last year that a part time health agent (who was previously employed by the Town) was able to do as much or more than a full time agent. M. Blanchard advised the Board of Health representatives to gather more information and plan on presenting a justification for a full time Title V Inspector at special town meeting. P. Gimás also advised that the Board of Health to come to the Selectmen's meeting with specific information way ahead of said special town meeting. M. Blanchard stated the Board of Health didn't have specific fee numbers back when they recently met with the Finance Committee. R. Volpe stated that in past three years, the Board of Health has spent 80% of its time on Title V regulations. C. Kaitbenski stated he was not going to make a motion tonight and would like to see the article presented at special town meeting when more questions are answered. C. Kaitbenski also stated that he filled out a disclosure form and filed with the Town Clerk. M. Dowling stated that the Board of Selectmen's request for specific fees being listed is a reasonable request; however requesting the proposed programs with fully developed steps of implementation was not reasonable. M. Blanchard suggested the Board of Health work on documenting justification of the position in terms of hours spent as a starting point.

Public Service Announcements

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Mary Blanchard read the announcements.

Town Administrator's Update

MassDOT Prioritization Plan - Complete Streets Tier II

Motion: I move to authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement for the next phase of the complete streets project in preparation of a Prioritization Plan. CMRPC grant

By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimas

All in Favor: 5-0

Presentation: Recreation Committee - Town Fields

Annie Rossioli, Recreation Director and members of the Recreation Committee: Erin Carson and Kaydion Phillips were present to speak with the Selectmen. Same plans as 2016 however the cost is higher at 6.7 million. Ledge issues will increase costs. A dog park is feasible, but not planned. Plan includes an additional baseball field and upgrades to existing fields. Parking, playground, bocce ball courts and lighting are additions. The CPC is giving 1 million which brings total down to 5.7 million to be paid over 20 years. P. Gimas asked about bathrooms. A. Rossioli stated the plan doesn't include bathrooms; the current plan is for porta potties. One option is to build a porta house building which will contain many potties in one area and can be kept cleaner. P. Gimas asked if there will be grass, not turf and is there an irrigation system included for the field itself. A. Rossioli responded that there will be grass and she will check back about irrigating the fields. P. Gimas asked about running water for concession stands. K. Phillips stated that a little league field has a well; so there is access. P. Gimas asked if grants or sponsorships have been sought as a way to help taxpayers accept the high price tag and higher tax rate? A. Rossioli stated that it is hard to find assistance for active versus passive recreation. The Plimpton property has been considered; however the town barn is considered the best central location according to a study. C. Kaitbenski stated the ledge is the biggest hurdle, the costs could be high, perhaps as much as \$800k or up to 2 million. Cost range is too open. Asked about the \$10k test that is available to help pinpoint anticipated ledge costs. A. Rossioli responded the Recreation Committee was not advised of this test early on perhaps due to the test not providing a specific answer. She suggested instead of putting a price cap on the potential ledge issue instead. M. Blanchard stated other towns that have tournaments have 4-6 fields around concession. She feels the property is too small for an all-purpose field.

M. Dowling stated that the Shepherd parcel, the Plimpton property and town barn fields were all up for consideration at one point in time. The Town will not get all that they would like in a recreation field in terms of acreage, central location, etc., at any other location. She agrees with C. Kaitbenski that asking architects to pinpoint ledge is prudent use of \$10k to assess the overall costs. Suggested Recreation approach the CPC for additional money; another \$500k, which will reduce total down two million. M. Dowling stated that personally she will not support CPC for future projects until more is given towards active recreation. L. Gaumond stated to the Board that he walked the Plimpton property with Conservation Agent Glenn Colburn years ago. Site work is more extensive in his opinion, there is a lot of cliff. P. Gimas stated she believes there

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would be more voter support if there was any way to get the cost under five million. M. Suprenant stated that project cannot be put out to bid without full information on boring tests, etc. concerning the ledge. C. Kaitbenski stated that if there could be a cap on the ledge at 1 million; and CPC could give the extra \$500k, then he would support the article. P. Gimas asked L. Gaumond to give some estimated figures on the first year tax relief savings on varied tax rates with additional CPC contribution. L. Gaumond reviewed some examples of rate increases. Discussion came to a close as Board members talked about how to properly word the warrant article #14 regarding appropriation and bond counsel specification.

Town Administrator's Update

Town of Sturbridge has been designated as a Tree City for the 29th year in a row

Vote to consider Temporary Tree Inventory Specialist appointment

Motion: I move to concur with the appointment of Rebekah DeCoursey as a Temporary Street Tree Inventory Specialist per the recommendation of Tom Chamberland, Tree Warden, pending receipt of all the required paperwork submission total pay amount of \$1,500.00.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

Vote to sell alcoholic beverages at Sturbridge Farmers Market - Ragged Hill Cider Co.

There is a memo to the Board from Kevin Filchak, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator and Town Counsel on the matter of Farmer-Winery permits.

M. Dowling stated that the Board needs to adopt a policy on this first before other applications start coming forward. M. Blanchard suggested a one year ban. C. Kaitbenski also agreed about the need for a policy. M. Suprenant stated that selling alcohol at community events such as the farmers market would be a promotion residents would favor. The Town Administrator will write a letter to the Ragged Hill Cider Co. explaining the Town does not yet have a policy for this year.

Vote to accept the resignation of Kristie Galonek - Sturbridge Tourist Association

Motion: I move to accept the resignation of Kristie Galonek from the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

Vote to appoint members to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

A memo to the Board from Kevin Filchak, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator listing the members to be considered for appointment to the LRPC. The Town Administrator read the list of names and positions from the memo:

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Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator,
Thomas Ford, III, Police Chief and Emergency Management Director
John Grasso, Fire Chief
Kevin Filchak, Emergency Management Coordinator
Lt. Mark Saloio, Police
Lt. Earl Dessert, Police
Lt. John Marinelli, Fire
Bri Eichstaedt, Health Agent
Rebecca Gendreau, Conservation Agent
Heather Weston, Council on Aging
Wendy McRoy, Transportation
Deb Boyd, Tantasqua Regional High School
Dave Demings, Community Emergency Response Team
Jean Bubon, Town Planner
Barbara Barry, Finance Director
Nelson Burlingame, Building Commissioner
Mark Augello, Operations Manager, DPW
Kristen Jerome, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

**other may be added to this committee in the future if deemed necessary which would include a member of the press, Burgess Elementary School, and the Red Cross.*

Motion: I move to concur on the appointment of the listed members of the LEPC on the May 2, 2018 memo from Kevin Filchak, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimás

All in Favor: 5-0

Vote to authorize the Town Administrator to prepare RFP for new Senior Center

Motion: I move to authorize the Town Administrator to finalize a RFP for Purchase of Land and Building for the new senior center study committee prior to a formal feasibility study.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimás

All in Favor: 5-0

Presentation of Net Metering Credits FY to Date

The Town Administrator updated the Board members on the three (3) solar projects and the benefits to the Town. Town Accountant tracking FY 2018. \$85k savings on projects.

Application for Special Use Permit: Fishing Event on Alum Pond

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The Town Administrator received an application for a Special Use Permit on Alum Pond for a Bass Fishing Tournament Event on May 27, 2018.

Motion: I move to approve the request for a Special Use Permit on Alum Pond for a Bass Fishing Tournament on May 27, 2018 per approval of Conservation and Police Departments.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

Vote to Amend and Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant; and add Warrant article for Revaluation/Interim Adjustments.

The Town Administrator informed the Board that the Warrant needs to be opened to include at least one additional new article for Revaluation/Interim adjustments; have a discussion regarding the proposed sewer budget article and finalize any last recommendations to the Warrant.

Following this; the Board will need to vote to close the Warrant and sign the Warrant for posting.

Motion: I move to open the Warrant.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

Modify language in the Article 10 for the proposed rate increase sewer reserve fund balance.

Motion: I move to place and support including Article 10 for the proposed rate increase of the sewer reserve fund balance.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimas

All in Favor: 5-0

Town Barn Fields Project Article

Motion: I move to defer a recommendation until Annual Town Meeting.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

Article #25

Vote to rescind Article #25 for free cash transfer wireless devices for Burgess Elementary.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

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New Article #25 for Revaluation/Interim Adjustments

Motion: I move to place and support including the new article #25 for Revaluation/Interim Adjustments in amount of \$40,000.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd by: P. Gimas

All in Favor: 5-0

Recreational marijuana

Board should prepare to use a substitute motion at Town Meeting.

Article #32 Stretch Code

Place & support Stretch Code.

By: M. Dowling

2nd by: M. Blanchard

Vote approved: 3-2 (Gimas-Kaitbenski opposed)

Motion: I move to close the Annual Town Warrant.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

Motion: I move to sign and post the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

I move to sign and post the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: M. Suprenant

All in Favor: 5-0

Old Business

New Business

M. Blanchard: Referenced a letter of praise to the Town from Altruist Brewing Co. for the Town's assistance. She has heard several other positive comments on Town helpfulness.

Correspondence

M. Dowling, Clerk read the correspondence received.

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M. Blanchard received a communication from the Superintendent of Schools that at their 4/25/18 meeting there was discussion on a school resource officer program. The School Committee agreed to schedule further discussion on this topic at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

April 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion: I move to approve the April 17, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

Citizen's Forum

None

Adjourn

Motion: I move to adjourn the meeting.

By: P. Gimas

2nd by: C. Kaitbenski

All in Favor: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at: 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen J. King, Administrative Assistant

Date July 2 '18 May Dowling BOS Clerk