

**Board of Selectmen
September 17, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Ted Kozak, Interim Town Administrator
Jeneé Lacy, Admin Assistant

Also Present:

Frank Bicchieri
Chief Tom Ford
Nelson Burlingame

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Blanchard introduced the new Interim Town Administrator Ted Kozak.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements from agenda.

- MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October
 - October 12 – Framingham & Norwell
 - October 19 – Newburyport & Westport
 - October 26 – Stockbridge & Sunderland
- Town of Sturbridge Mandatory Water Ban – Effective 9/11/18 Until Further Notice
- Approval of Sturbridge Tax Rate by the Department of Revenue
- Special Town Meeting Schedule
- M. Dowling reminded citizens of the community bonfire set for September 20th
- M. Blanchard reminded citizens of the ribbon cutting ceremony for Baystate Dental

Public Hearing: Hamilton Rod & Gun Club – Gravel Removal Permit Continuation

Frank Bicchieri came forward, introduced himself and explained the updated plans and the work he did with Greg Morse (DPW) regarding drainage. M. Blanchard asked if the close out was scheduled for 2020. F. Bicchieri confirmed that it was.

G. Morse came forward and explained that he had met with F. Bicchieri and explained what worried him about the plan and why the drainage was important. He stated that they would reconnect within six months of the close out to make sure everything is working properly.

M. Blanchard read notes from the Town Planner regarding the Hamilton Rod & Gun plan, and discussed what concerns Conservation had.

F. Bicchieri stated that they would make revisions to the plan as they went. The Board and F. Bicchieri discussed what conservation and planning were looking for, drainage connections, and where drainage would go.

M. Suprenant stated that in 2008 a special permit was granted to Hamilton Rod & Gun Club by the Planning Board and asked if it would need to be renewed. F. Bicchieri stated he would look into the special permit and will reach out to Jean in Planning.

C. Kaitbenski praised the construction and how clean everything was when he stopped by.

Motion: To close public hearing. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To grant gravel removal permit extension with all original conditions in place to the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Department Heads Updates

Fire Department

M. Blanchard announced that Fire Chief Grasso was out sick and wouldn't be able to attend and that the Selectmen could contact him directly if they had any questions or concerns regarding his reports.

Police Department

Police Chief Tom Ford came forward and discussed his reports from July and August 2018. He discussed increase in calls and successful annual events.

M. Dowling mentioned that she noticed vehicle citations have increased. Chief Ford responded that he has younger officers and a higher activity level and that they have new initiatives this year that they didn't have last year. He noted that the citations included more warnings than actual tickets.

M. Blanchard asked about the boat patrols only being on Cedar Lake. Chief Ford discussed that they concentrated on certain days and that due to other priorities they weren't able to get through all the lakes and more patrols may have been cancelled due to weather.

Chief Ford discussed creating a program for a school resource officer. He stated that he met with the School Committee Chairmen and the Superintendent to discuss program and create an outline for the entire district for a whole community approach. Chief Ford asked the Board of Selectmen to support a warrant article for Special Town Meeting for Funding of a school resource officer. P. Gimás thanked Chief Ford for his diligence in going after this program and that she stands behind it 100 percent. Chief Ford stated that he thinks they have a great outline for the program. M. Dowling asked if the school resource officer that is currently at Burgess would change. Chief Ford replied that the only change would possible be a change in hours and won't have a detrimental impact.

Chief Ford discussed his need for additional dispatcher staffing. He explained that the dispatcher position is a high stress job and it takes a toll over time. Chief Ford is asking the Board for its support regarding a warrant for Special Town Meeting for one full time position and uniforms. M.

Dowling suggested that Chief Ford put together data and numbers to support his request at Special Town Meeting. P. Gimás stated that she has no problem with an increase in personnel, the senior population in Sturbridge has increased and created a need for more service from public safety.

Building Inspector

N. Burlingame came forward and discussed his monthly report highlights, specific commercial projects, training, capital projects, completed projects, Lock issue at Town Hall and COB.

M. Blanchard stated that the discussion about the locks would have to be during an executive session.

The Board of Selectmen and N. Burlingame discussed various projects around town and ongoing issues.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Frank McNeil from the Personnel Committee, Planning Board and Safety Committee. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To accept the resignation of Susan Grandone from the Housing Partnership Committee. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak thanked the board for choosing him to be the Interim Town Administrator. He stated that he sat down with L. Guamond before he left to talk about things that were on going with the town. T. Kozak also stated that his major goal for the time he is at Sturbridge is to get the packet together for Special Town Meeting and Public Safety, emergency management.

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence to the Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from November 7, 2016 as amended. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 2-0-3 (M. Dowling, P. Gimás & C. Kaitbenski abstained)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 5, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 10, 2018. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m. By: P. Gimás

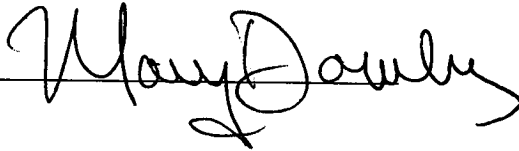
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Dawley", written over a horizontal line.

Oct 1 '18
Date approved: _____