

**Board of Selectmen
November 7, 2016
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Craig Moran
Michael Suprenant

Absent:

Priscilla Gimás
Mary Dowling

Open Session

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Service Announcements

- MassPike toll booths are coming down quickly and efficiently.
- Election Day is Tomorrow. Everyone is encouraged to vote 6:30-8:00 at Old Sturbridge Village.
- CMRPC Fall Legislative Affairs Breakfast, when Friday December 2, 2016 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am 2nd Floor Union Station, 2 Washington Square, Worcester, MA
- Upcoming FEMA – Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Discovery Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 1:30 pm

Part-Time Firefighter Appointment

Adam LaFlash, full-time in Auburn currently, and was part time in Oxford. He is now living in Sturbridge and will be giving up the Oxford position to take the one in Sturbridge. He will be a part-time on call firefighter/paramedic.

Motion: to appoint Adam LaFlash as a part-time firefighter effective November 8, 2016 at a rate of pay to be determined by the Fire Chief and Town Administrator. By M. Suprenant.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 3-0

Charter Review Committee

Members: Sandra Gibson-Quigley, vice chair, Larry Morrison clerk, Bill Haggerty, chair, Bruce Boysen, Paul Zapun.

The Charter Review Committee has been working over a year on this Charter Review. Suggestion boxes were placed for public input in the Library and Town hall, and a public meeting was held for the same purpose. A lot of work was done to update the language of the Charter (original was 1987) to make it easier to read and understand. There was also concern from the Committee that the charter was very gender specific and the feeling from the Committee is that that Charter should be gender unbiased. There were also several grammatically issues that were corrected. The Committee went over the suggested changes to the Charter with the Board of Selectmen.

Significant changes include:

- Added term of “appropriation” in definitions.

- At Special Town Meetings, the Town Administrator would have the authority to determine if Town employees or officials need to or not to attend meeting, depending on what items are on the Warrant. This would not apply to Annual Town Meeting, where all Town officials would be required to attend.
- Town Administrator position. Currently language is limiting and doesn't allow the time to search for a Town Administrator when the position is vacant. Inserted language that states a temporary Town Administrator could be appointed for 6-months, with the ability to renew for up to 3-months on the approval of the Board of Selectmen.
- Appointed procedure of Town Administrator. Sometimes finding three qualified candidates is difficult, the proposed change includes no fewer than two candidates and no more than four candidates will be brought forward to the Board of Selectmen for appointment as recommended by the Search Committee.
- Acting Town Administrator adjustment for appointment of officials.
- Remove the long list of appointed officials and make a more general statement of that the Town Administrator will recommend appointment of officials to the Board of Selectmen; at present time this list doesn't stay current with the Charter review occurring every five years.
- Article 7 talks mostly of Transition – we have transitioned; thus the Committee recommends removing this section.

Right of First Refusal Douty Road

No paperwork was submitted; postponed until later meeting.

TIF Application Publick House

Michael Glick, general manager of Publick House is applying for a TIF for a proposed 28-room new hotel building on the property. They are hoping to increase revenue by expanding the hotel business. Proposed structure will involve a good amount of site work due to the topography of the site. A tax incentive from the town would make the project more affordable for the Publick House. It will create 10 permanent jobs. Project price range is from \$5-7 million – plans are still in the works.

Motion to have the BOS authorize the Town Administrator to prepare an article on the Town Warrant for the TIF for the Publick House. M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Moran.

Vote: 3-0

Review Articles Special Town Meeting

Ten items were prepared by the Town Administrator to the Board of Selectmen.

1. Funding for fire apparatus.
2. Prior Years Bills.
3. Discussion desire to appropriate monies for ladder truck.
4. Charter amendments.
5. Budget fix for water department.
6. Transfer \$152,000 to help fund capital projects fund from free cash.
7. To allow funds to put emergency alarms in town buildings in case of heating failure.
8. Tax Incentive Funding application for Publick House
9. Board of Health: request for additional funds in relation to Southbridge Landfill site assignment.
10. Board of Health: seeking reorganization of staffing within current budget.

Motion to have the Town Administrator prepare a Warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-0

Town Administrator's Update

- Grant proposed with CMRPC for bike stands throughout the Town. Tom Chamberland has been working with CMRPC on this project. The proposal includes three bike stands and one maintenance stand. Grant money has been secured to cover the price of materials and installation, the project just needs Board approval.

Motion to approve the placement of the bike stands and maintenance stand. By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-0

- Request from Board of Health Special Town Counsel seeking designation as special town employee.

Motion to allow the designation as special town employee as requested. By: M. Blanchard

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 2-0-1 (C. Moran abstained)

- Approve revisited job descriptions for Animal Control Officer and Fire Chief as proposed by Personnel Committee.

Motions approve the change in job description to the Animal Control Officer position. By: M. Blanchard

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 2-1 (C. Moran opposed)

Motions approve the change in job description to the Fire Chief position. By: M.

Suprenant

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 3-0

- Mountain Brook Project. Nearly finished, grant of easement at 63 New Boston Road. Asking the Board to approve the finalization of documents.

Motion to allow the Town Administrator to prepare the easements for Suzanne Lulu and present the final document to be signed from the Board of Selectmen and Ms. Lulu. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 3-0

- Our Certified Public Accountant that completes the Town's auditing needs a signed contract.

Motion to have the Board sign the contract By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-0

- Approve the appropriation of creating a gift account for the Fire Department.
- To accept the donation from OFS of \$1,000 to the Fire Department for unspecified use.

Motion to create the gift account and the \$1,000 donation to be deposited into said account. By: C. Moran

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-0

-Intriguing offer from the Town of Charlton. Charlton would like to explore a regional municipal gas utility that traverses through town, including Oxford and Spencer as well. Charlton is exploring a grant to further research this study. The Board agreed that Sturbridge should take part in exploring this possibility of bringing the Tennessee Natural Gas Pipeline services into Sturbridge.

Correspondence

Mary Blanchard read into the record the list of correspondence received.

Old Business

- Looking for update on the solar operation. The Town Administrator will ask for an update on the timeline of the project, which is under construction.
- Keep following up on Brookfield Route from Route 20 to MassPike Bridge.

New Business

None

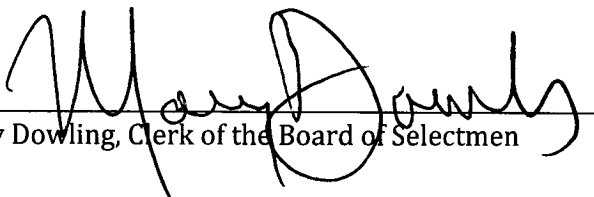
Citizen's Forum

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm by C. Moran

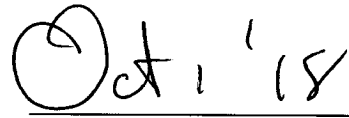
2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-0

Minutes Prepared By: Rebekah DeCoursey



Mary Dowling, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen



Date