

**Board of Selectmen
November 21, 2016
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chair
Priscilla Gimás
Craig Moran
Michael Suprenant
Mary Dowling (arrived 7:00)

Open Session

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Service Announcements

- The Board wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Saturday is Small Business Saturday. M. Suprenant encouraged people to remember to shop local.
- Tree Lighting Ceremony is this Friday on the Town Common.
- The start of Sturbridge Business Tours. This will have town staff touring local business to hear more about the local business community. Headed by Kevin Filchak.
- CMRPC Fall Legislative Affair Breakfast is coming up.
- WalMart inviting mayors and legislatures to get involve in their bell ringing outside the stores. Ships for volunteers will be in half hour increments.

**Motion to retire to Executive Session and resume again in Open Session. By C. Moran
2nd. M. Suprenant.**

**Vote: M. Blanchard – Yes
M. Suprenant – Yes
C. Moran – Yes
P. Gimás – Yes**

The Board resumed Open Session at 7:10pm. Mary Dowling joined the meeting.

Appointment

Facilities Coordinator Daniel Matte. The Town Administrator recommended the appointment. Mr. Matte manages properties in Sturbridge and other towns, and as the position is a part-time position (eventually will be 25 hours a week) with some flexibility and Mr. Matte doesn't see that it will be a concern.

Motion to appoint Mr. Matte as Facilities Coordinator effective November 26, 2016 at a rate of \$18.51 per hour. C. Moran

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 4-1 (M. Suprenant)

Department Head Updates

Chief Ford, Police Department

It is "Movember" and Chief Ford has given the police department to be allowed to grow a mustache in support of men's prostate health awareness in exchange for a minimum \$20 donation towards supporting prostate health. It is a great cause and also great for morale.

Calls for service were consistent through September and October. There was been a significant amount of training throughout the department. The new Animal Control Officer is exceling in the position and had been completing training as well. Calls to the schools were due to sports industry. Mr. Brent Young is still missing to date; the investigation is still active and the search continues. Standard Operating Procedure presented to the Board involves Protective Custody Law changes. The previous law only dealt with alcohol related challenges and will now cover opioid (or similar situations). The Board and Chief Board discussed the opioid crisis, Narcan use and overdose calls in Sturbridge.

Fire Chief Ford

Total runs are up 17% this year, mostly from EMS calls which are at 20% of total calls. Multiple calls (two or more calls at the same time) are up but coverage at the station is also up. Augmenting this with part-time shifts to keep three people on staff at one time has been successful. Chief Ford stated this is going in the right direction. Mr. Moran voiced concern over the number of false alarms in town and the possibility of instituting a fine for false alarms in town.

Nelson Burlingame – Building Inspector

The department has been very busy – thus the input of permits into the software is a little behind. There has been a lot of code enforcement, as well as annual 110 Inspections, numerous wood and pellet burning stove installation. Alturist Brewery is moving forward in the Millyard. Holiday Inn Express is nearly half complete. Super 8 Motel needs some code upgrades and has been working with fire, building, and the architect to make the improvements. Historical Commission is concerned with a barn on the Publick House property.

Town Administrator's Update

- Abatement request from Teddy Bachawaty from 14 Meadow View Lane. Problems with some meter readings and the past owner. Mr. Bachawaty moved into town and the previous owner had the sprinkler system go on at night and as a new owner he did not realize the water use was occurring. Ms. Blanchard stated that because the town is only liable for the water use if something such as a water line break occurred. Unfortunately, unless it can be 100% proven that the town is at fault the Board will not be in favor of abatement.

Motion to deny the abatement. P. Gimás

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

- Abatement request Joe and Karen Distefano from 9 Woodside Circle. A letter from Mr. Distefano and a copy of the meter readings in graphical and numerical form. An inspection showed constant use of water for a period of time – thought to be from an outside garden hose to be left on by the owner. Ms. Blanchard stated this, as the previous request, is not at fault of the town.

Motion to deny the abatement request. P. Gimás

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

- Town Common Study Committee. As requested by the Board, a report from the Committee suggested for the closing of Morse Street a one-way during events or closing the street completely and the installation of curbing around the common. A full report was provided to the Board. Discussion was had over parking and traffic flow arrangements at the Town Common. Public Comment: Jack Taylor of 8 Morse Street and stated that the road has been there for at least 151 years and the residents were not involved in the discussion of closing Morse Street and there should be more research and discussion on this study. Carol Goodwin also commented that the bright orange barriers that were put up really take away

from the Town Common. The Board agreed they are ugly and are there on a temporary basis. Penny Dumas also spoke in favor of expanding the decisions of the Town Common to a wider audience than just the Town Common Study Committee.

Motion to reopen Morse Street immediately and direct the Tom Common Study Committee to continue to study the handicap parking. C. Moran

2nd: M. Dowling, as amended

Vote: 3-2 (P. Gimas, M. Blanchard)

- Town Administrator suggested the Board accept the resignation of Lori Main from the Senior Center

Motion to accept the resignation of Lori Main. P. Gimas

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 5-0

- Douty Road Right of First Refusal Request 50 & 14 Douty Road.
 - The owners are getting ready to sell the property and the property comes out of Chapter Land. The Town has 30 days to review and 120 days to acquire it if the Town would like to do so. Penny Dumas asked to confirm this process of the Right of First Refusal with the Board to bring back proper information to the Community Preservation Committee.

Motion to acknowledge receipt and start review processes. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 5-0

- Draft Warrant articles for the Town Meeting. This is only to vote to add articles to the Warrant.

Motion to reopen the Draft Warrant. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 5-0

Motion: to place Article 46 on the Warrant regarding amendments to the Sturbridge Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. By P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Discussion: Mr. Moran – is this the time to change the appointment over election of Town Constable? It would need to be on a later Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: 5-0

Motion to place and support Article 47 on the Warrant to create a fire apparatus stabilization fund. By M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

Motion to place and support Article 48 on the Warrant for purchase of a used ladder truck appropriating \$400,000. By P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Discussion: C. Moran – there may be some numeric deviation from this article on the topic of buying new versus used fire truck from the Finance Committee.

Vote: 5-1 (C. Moran)

Article 49 – costs associated with Southbridge Landfill Project. Linda Cocalis, chair of the Board of Health, explained what the need and intent is for this Article. A site suitability study will be need completed. A hydro-geologist will be hired to determine how the expansion of the Southbridge Landfill will affect the Town. There is already known

contamination to Sturbridge private wells from the landfill. The \$75,000 request will not cover any legal fees, just research.

Motion to place and support Article 49 for the costs associated with the Southbridge Landfill Project. By M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: 5-0

Article 50 – recommended to be pulled from the Warrant.

Motion to delete Article 50. By P. Gimás

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: 5-0

Motion to place and support Article 51 unpaid bills from the previous year. By M. Suprenant.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote 5-0

Article 52: transfer of funds for the reorganization of the Board of Health. The department is looking to reorganize the staffing arrangement. In this Article, monies previously designated for department head would go towards administration and the health inspector wages. The Board spoke concerns about bringing the hours of the health agent down to part time, when the previous health agent stated she couldn't address everything required within a full time position. More responsibilities could be given to the administration, but the Board would like to see more information to explain the details of this shift in the department.

Motion to place Article 52 transfer of funds for reorganization of the Board of Health. By M. Dowling.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Discussion: Mr. Moran stated that if the Chair of the Board of Health feels the interim part time agent is able to complete the job in half the time than the previous agent, the Board should support this. Ms. Dowling stated that the Health Agent position has always been full time and the Health Agent also has qualifications and credentials that administrative staff does not possess. In the past the department has always asked for more thus if this change was to occur it would be hard to bring it back to full time.

Vote 3-2 (P. Gimás, M. Suprenant)

Motion to place and support Article 53 transfer of funds for capital projects per financial policies. By P. Gimás.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote 5-0

Motion to reconsider Article 52. By M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Discussion: Ms. Dowling feels this department shift is a big change and would she thinks the Board should review the requested details of job descriptions, past duties completed and present duties completed before cutting the Health Agent to 20 hours a week. If more time is needed in the department for inspections, she would rather see hours be added to the Health Inspector so both positions would be full time. Ms. Gimás and Mr. Suprenant also agreed that this department change needs a lot more

research and study. This could be a step in the wrong direction for a town with numerous restaurants and hotels.

Vote 3-1(Blanchard)-1 (Moran)

**Motion to remove placement and support of Article 52 for the Special Town Meeting.
By M. Suprenant**

2nd: M. Dowling

Discussion: The Board is open and expecting to reconsider this Article for the Annual Town Meeting in June with more information from the Board of Health.

Vote 5-0

Motion to place and support Article 54 move monies from the water reserve fund to water miscellaneous fund to cover items as discussed in the report provided to the Board. By P. Gimás

2nd: C. Moran

Vote 5-0

TIF for Publick House is being review by Town Council for final approval and will be returned to the Town Administrator within 48 hours.

Motion to place and support Article 55 the TIF of the Publick House. By P. Gimás.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote 5-0

Motion to close the Warrant. By P. Gimás.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote 5-0

Correspondence

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

Old Business

- Town Hall phone system. Yes, funds were appropriated to replace the phone system. Delivery for new phones should be moving forward by the end of the year, if not completely implemented by then.
- Board of Selectmen retreat needs to be rescheduled.
- Christmas lighting. Monies for landscaping were appropriated last year – it was not for lighting. There is currently not outdoor electricity at all the Town buildings. The Town Administrator will provide a better update at the next meeting.

New Business

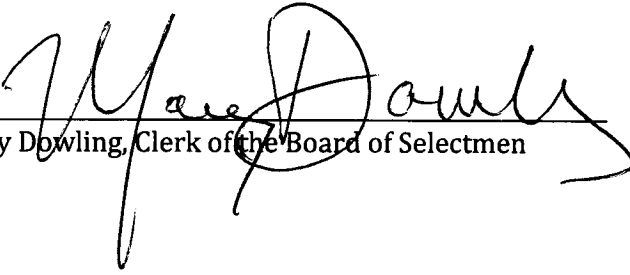
None

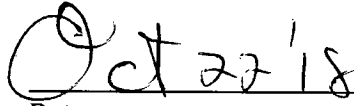
Motion to adjourn at 10:16 pm by P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 5-0

Minutes Prepared By: Rebekah DeCoursey


Mary Dowling, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen


Date