

**Board of Selectmen
July 2, 2018
Town Hall**

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OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK
STURBRIDGE, MA

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator
Rebekah DeCoursey, Temporary Assistant

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: I move to enter into Executive Session under the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 30a Section 21 (a)(3) to discussion union negotiations with the police & fire unions as to discuss these items in open session will have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town as declared by the Chairman. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimas

Roll Call Vote: P. Gimas YES, C. Kaitbenski YES, M. Dowling YES, M. Blanchard Yes. Motion passes 4-0.

Open Session

Chairman Blanchard reconvened the regular meeting at 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance

6:35 p.m. Public Hearing: Pole Petition: National Grid/230 Podunk Road.

National Grid is requesting the placement of a utility pole on Podunk Road to service 230 Podunk Road. The property owner would like to install underground utilities and the nearest pole is at 232 Podunk Road. The Board requested that in the future the applicant should note on the Pole Petition Plan the exact placement of the pole in relationship to the edge of the pavement to show that the applicant has taken all reasonable efforts to provide the best suitable location for the pole. The Public had no comments.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Motion: To approve the pole placement and line set forth in the Pole Petition Plan presented by National Grid for 230 Podunk Road. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: 5-0

Public Service Announcements

- The Town Hall and Center Office Building have new hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00am – 4:00 pm; Tuesday 8:00am – 7:00pm; Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm.
- M. Dowling wanted to wish everyone a happy, healthy 4th of July.
- The Tree Warden issued information on the tree mortality from the gypsy moth and drought that was issued via the Town Administrator's blog and the Town website.

- A very happy 50th wedding anniversary to the Board's chair and her husband.

One-Day Liquor License – Hamilton Rod and Gun Club

Lorrie Jeskey represented the Hamilton Rod and Club requesting two 1-day liquor licenses for Friday August 3rd, 2018 and Saturday August 4th, 2018 for a two day even. The application should read August 4th not August 8th.

Motion: to issued two 1-day liquor licenses to the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club for Friday August 3rd from noon to 1:00am, and Saturday August 4th from 8:00am to 1:00am. By M. Dowling. 2nd: M. Suprenant. Vote: 5-0

Request from Old Sturbridge Village to change hours of service of alcohol.

Dennis Santelli, general manager of food and beverage at Old Sturbridge Village spoke on behalf of the applicant and establishment. They have requested to serve alcohol beginning at 10am on Sunday, one hour earlier than their current time of 11am. Applicant was Lisa Anne Hartigan, license holder for the Oliver Wight Tavern.

Motion: To approve the change in start time of service of alcohol from 11am to 10am on Sundays at Old Sturbridge Village. By M. Dowling

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Request from Gordon Holstrom in regarding to waiving the state requirement to retire from firefighter duties at the age of 65.

Gordon will turn 65 in September and after 49 years of being a firefighter it is more of a hobby and enjoyment than a job for him. He would like to continue to serve and support the community. The Board discussed the logistics of this situation, while expressing thanks and support to Gordon for his service. For this request, it would need a passing Town Meeting vote and passing of special legislation by the State Legislature. The timeframe is very tight to 1) hold a special town meeting 2) have the legislation pass before Gordon's birthdate in September. The state legislation goes into summer recess very shortly, thus this could only be brought before the legislation in an informal session in upcoming weeks rather than a formal session. The Board will revisit this issue once some questions are clarified by Town Counsel and our State Representative. M. Dowling stated that she supported his desire to work for the town and to do what the town can to further this goal, including, holding a special town meeting prior to his retirement date. The Board will follow up with Gordon when they hear back regarding the legislative side of the process. Gordon thanked the Board for their time and support.

Town Administrator's Update:

Motion to approve the heating fuel contract awarded by CMRPC's fuel bids to Peterson Oil. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the current Town's Goals and Objective. These include several accomplishments including, but not limited to: opening a Memory Café at the Senior Center, a Route 15 Corridor study, moving forward on burying utility lines along Main Street, and re-establishing the Housing Partnership.

Old Business

- After attending the Farmer's Market, M. Dowling would like to revisit running a table and being a presence for one Sunday during the season.
- P. Gimás asked if the Town could follow up with Charter Communications.

New Business

- At the most recent Mass. Selectmen's Assoc. meeting, the Board offered to host the one to be held on September 20th in the evening.
- The Board would like to send a congratulatory letter to Lt. Earl Dessert on his completion to the FBI National Academy.

Correspondence

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

Approval of minutes.

Motion: to approve the minutes from June 18, 2018 as amended by P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Motion: to approve the minutes from June 25, 2018 by M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: 5-0

Citizen's Forum

- The Board acknowledged the Boy Scout Member present.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. by P. Gimás

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 5-0


Mary Dowling, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen

Dated: 