

**Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Richard Valcourt, Silvertree Realty LLC
Dominique DuTremble, CMRPC
Jean Bubon, Town Planning
Chief Tom Ford, Chief of Police
Colby Tytula, Part-time Reserve Police Officer
Rebecca Mimeault, SCSC
Susan Grandone, SCSC
Margaret Darling, SCSC
Kenneth White, SCSC

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Blanchard announced that Ronald Wolhouse had passed away and wished condolences to his family and friends.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements from agenda.

- Center of Hope Foundation Wine Tasting & Live Auction October 12, 2018 6pm
- Town of Sturbridge Voluntary Water Ban – Effective 9/18/18 Until Further Notice
- Dementia Friendly Community Initiative Meeting October 11, 2018 6pm at the Sturbridge Senior Center, 2nd Floor/Main Hall – Personal invite to Board of Selectmen from COA Director
- Council on Aging Walk
- The Town of Sturbridge Planning Board is seeking new members to apply
 - P. Gimas asked if we could look at applications from earlier in the year.
 - T. Kozak agreed that we could do that
- M. Dowling thanked those who came out for the Community Bonfire and those who made the event possible.

Public Hearing: Silvertree Reality LLC – Forest Cutting Plan/Logging Permit 550 Route 15

Richard Valcourt came forward, introduced himself and explained that the Forest Cutting Plan for 550 Route 15 is because of insect infestation, they are going to be removing dead and diseased trees and creating an environment for healthy trees to thrive.

M. Blanchard asked if all abutters notice receipts had been returned. R. Valcourt responded that most of them had been but he didn't have them with him. M. Blanchard reminded him that abutter's receipts need to be returned to the Town Hall.

M. Suprenant brought up the Cease and Desist letter that was sent to R. Valcourt by Conservation.

M. Blanchard asked when the cutting would begin.

R. Valcourt replied that they plan on starting once the plan is approved by the Board of Selectmen.

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

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve cutting plan by Silvertree Realty using the standard conditions of logging permits. By: M. Suprenant

Discussion: M. Blanchard read conditions of logging permits

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Approve Energy Reduction Plan

Jean Bubon, Town Planner, and Dominique DuTremble, CMRPC, came forward. J. Bubon explained the Energy Reduction Plan and introduced D. DuTremble from the Massachusetts Green Communities Program. D. DuTremble explained the Energy Reduction Plan in more depth.

M. Suprenant asked if there were any opportunities for variable frequency drives, electric motors are more efficient. D. DuTremble responded that it wasn't included in this assessment though it should be and that she would like to have a team come out and have a contractor do a study including those items.

M. Dowling asked about street lights using solar energy and burying utility poles and if it would make an impact. D. DuTremble responded that it is something they can look into.

Motion: To approve the Energy Reduction Plan. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Concur with Appointment of Colby Tytula as a Part-Time Reserve Police Officer

Chief Ford and Colby Tytula came forward and Chief Ford introduced C. Tytula, explaining the position of Part-time Reserve Police Officer.

Motion: To concur with appointment of Colby Tytula as a Part-time Reserve Police Officer for the Police Department starting at \$28.27 per hour. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Approve Livery License – New Drivers for JYL Transportation

Motion: To approve driver Livery License for Hilda Galo and Mildred Goddard. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Senior Center Study Committee Update and Warrant Article Support Request

Ken White, Chairman of the Senior Center Study Committee, came forward and explained his requested support from the Board for a Warrant Article regarding either expanding the existing Senior Center, building a new Senior Center elsewhere in town, possible on Cedar Street, or building a Community Center with a Senior Center included.

M. Blanchard asked if they were requesting this Warrant Article for Special Town Meeting or Annual Town Meeting. Since an amount and account number would be needed for the Article, there wouldn't be enough time to put the Warrant on for Special Town Meeting.

P. Gimás asked what the difference would be between this study and the other study that was just finished. M. Blanchard responded that the one already done was a Needs Study and that this is a Feasibility study. P. Gimás stated that in the future shouldn't the Town just spend money once and do one complete study. She also inquired on what would happen to the new floor for the Senior Center if the Warrant is voted on to be renovated.

M. Dowling discussed Needs Study vs. Feasibility Assessment

P. Gimás asked if they could have the Facilities Coordinator decide whether the Town should have a Needs Study or a Feasibility Study or both. M. Suprenant stated that he thinks it's important to have Facilities Coordinator to be involved.

Motion: To support moving forward for Feasibility Study Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Discussion: The Board discussed doing both studies vs. separate studies – Feasibility Study and Primary Study

M. Dowling asked if the Senior Center Study Committee was amendable to a Community Center. K. White responded that they would be open to it if it was easier to get state funds. P. Gimás asked if the Committee knew if they could get state funds. K. White responded that they have no guarantees.

Motion Withdrawn for Further Investigation. By: M. Suprenant

2nd Withdrawn: M. Dowling

The Board discussed process, studies, and how long everything would take.

Vote to Approve Warrant Articles for Special Town Meeting

Article 34: Unpaid Bills of a Previous Fiscal Year

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 34 for Special Town Meeting. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 35: Free Cash Transfer – Costs Associated with the Town Administrator Search

M. Dowling talked about first meeting of TA Search Committee, and that they have invited search firms to give presentations. She stated that this Article is a place holder in case they decide to use one of the search firms, because they would need the money.

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 35 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 36: Free Cash Transfer – Town Administrator Salary Account

P. Gimas asked for more detail regarding Article. T. Kozak stated that it was to make up for amounts of unused vacation time for L. Gaumond and may also be to increase the salary for the new Town Administrator. M. Dowling asked if the Board would support the Article if the data supported and increase in pay for a new Town Administrator. M. Blanchard stated that she would be amendable to a higher range because the Town will get a better pool of candidates. P. Gimas stated that without an exact amount she won't support that part of the Article. C. Kaibenski stated that he wouldn't want to go above the current salary rate. M. Suprenant stated that he is open to an increase if the data supports it.

Motion: To place Warrant Article 36 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Blanchard
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 37: Community Preservation – Lighting Town Barn Field

M. Dowling asked if the CPC was the sponsor for this Article. T. Kozak confirmed.

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 37 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Dowling
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 38: Community Preservation – Removal of Outbuilding Plimpton Property

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 38 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
Discussion: The Board discussed if the Open Space Fund would be used for this Article.
2nd: C. Kaibenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 39: Online Board and Committee Database Software

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 39 for Special Town Meeting. By: P. Gimas
2nd: C. Kaibenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 40: Tree Removal and Pruning Due to Gypsy Moth Damage

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 40 for Special Town Meeting. By: P. Gimas
2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 41: Underground Utilities Study

**Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 41 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Dowling
2nd: C. Kaitbenski**

Discussion: M. Suprenant suggested that rather than giving this money to utility companies, the Town should use this money to hire a consulting engineer instead. C. Kaitbenski also suggested the Town take bids on who does study. P. Gimás stated that she is conflicted on this issue, she stated she understands this study from a tourist standpoint but thinks they should be spending the money on buildings in town that need to be fixed instead of spending money on aesthetics, so she can't support this Article.

Vote: 4-1 (P. Gimás opposed)

Article 42: Emergency Repairs to Well #5

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 42 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 43: Expanding Perchlorate Investigation

**Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 43 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: M. Dowling**

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 44: Building Inspector Step Increase

**Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 44 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: P. Gimás**

Vote: 4-1 (M. Blanchard opposed)

Article 45: Full Time Police Officer/School Resource Officer

**Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 45 for Special Town Meeting. By: P. Gimás
2nd: M. Dowling**

Discussion: M. Dowling stated that she supports but doesn't want to see it adversely take away hours to the SRO that is already at Burgess. M. Blanchard stated that she has reservations until they have the whole plan and doesn't want Sturbridge to be footing entire bill

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 46: Full Time Public Safety Dispatcher

**Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 46 for Special Town Meeting. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: P. Gimás**

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 47: Ambulance Stretcher

M. Dowling asked if this Article was for a new stretcher or an additional one.
T. Kozak responded that it was for a new stretcher.

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 47 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: C. Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 48: Reserve Fund

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 48 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 49: Appropriation of Unused Bond Premiums

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 49 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
Discussion: M. Suprenant – asked what the specific projects were. T. Kozak stated that he will find out.
2nd: C. Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 50: Adult Use Marijuana Zoning Bylaw Chapter 31

The Board of Selectmen discussed the number of license allowed by law based on the Towns Liquor Licenses.

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 50 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
Discussion: The Board discussed the sizes of retail marijuana dispensary and about limiting the size of locations.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: 4-1 (M. Dowling opposed)

Article 51: Adult Use Marijuana Zoning Bylaw Chapter 2 Definitions

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 51 for Special Town Meeting. By: P. Gimás
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: 4-1 (M. Dowling opposed)

Article 52: Stretch Code Numbering

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 52 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Article 53: Free Cash Transfer – Senior Center Flooring

Motion: To place and support Warrant Article 53 for Special Town Meeting. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Discussion: M. Suprenant asked if this was for an additional cost. T. Kozak responded that they needed more money to finish project.

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To close Warrant. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To sign and post Warrant. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak:

- Announced that a Pilot Agreement has been signed between the Town of Sturbridge and Old Sturbridge Village but OSV has an issue with the date of pay so an amendment is being created to change the pay date.
- Discussed the Agreement Notice to Proceed from MassDOT for \$15,603.42 to prepare a Complete Streets Project Prioritization Plan in Sturbridge.
- Announced the FEMA 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Program grant of \$54,249 that has been awarded to the Sturbridge Fire Department to purchase a new air compressor.
- Gave an update regarding the Emergency Management meeting.
- Gave an update regarding the Land Use Division meeting.

Old Business

P. Gimas asked if they were going to take about the deadbolt lock situation. M. Blanchard stated that they would discuss the issue after Special Town Meeting.

New Business

M. Blanchard announced annual Proclamation of friendship between Sturbridge, MA and Stourbridge, England and read Proclamation.

Motion: To approve proclamation for Stourbridge, England. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Correspondence

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 12, 2018 as amended. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 17, 2018. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

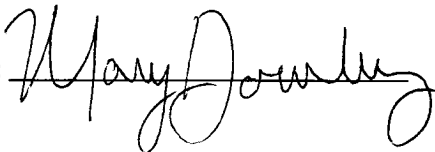
Motion: To adjourn at 8:25 p.m. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board: 

Date approved: Nov 18 '18