

**Board of Selectmen
November 5, 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:

James DiMaio
David Peterkin
James Ehrhard
Robert Cassim
Salli Green
Ed Galonek

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

M. Dowling thanked everyone who helped with the Halloween festivities and, in particular, the Sturbridge Fire Department Association and the Lion's Club, who provided the hot chocolate and cookies for the event.

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- Tree Lighting Ceremony – Friday Nov. 23, 2018 – 6pm on the Sturbridge Town Common
- Public House Tillyer House Grand Opening – Thursday Nov. 29, 2018 – 3:30pm

M. Blanchard announced a reminder that State Election voting was taking place the next day November 6, 2018.

Concur with Resignation of Timothy Bardsley from the Board of Registrars

Motion: To accept resignation of Tim Bardsley from the Board of Registrars. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Appointment of Janet Garon to the Board of Registrars

Motion: To appoint Janet Garon to the Board of Registrars. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Accept Donation of \$500 from FrOST to the Trails Committee for the Purchase of Tools

Motion: To accept \$500 donation from FrOST to the Trails Committee for the purchase of tools. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Accept Donation of \$300 from the New England Arms Society to the Sturbridge Police Dept.

Motion: To accept donation of \$300 from the New England Arms Society to the Sturbridge Police Dept. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Blanchard and the board discussed the proposed building of a LNG Facility in Charlton by Northeast Energy Center.

Appoint BOS Member as a Finance/Advisory Committee Liaison to the Sturbridge School System

M. Blanchard asked if any Board member was interested in becoming the BOS liaison to the Finance/Advisory Committee for the Sturbridge School System.

P. Gimas stated that she would be interested in being the liaison.

Motion: Nomination of Priscilla Gimas to be the Board of Selectmen liaison to the Sturbridge School System Finance/Advisory Committee. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak discussed the retirement of the DPW Director Greg Morse, stating that the Town Charter dictates that a search committee needs to be created to find a replacement for the DPW Dir.

M. Blanchard discussed the people that make up the committee, the Board discussed creating the advertisement.

T. Kozak discussed the Northeast Energy Center proposed LNG Facility in Charlton, stating that he met with a representative from Northeast Energy Center to discuss the Facility.

T. Kozak stated that Sturbridge is now becoming a Complete Streets Community and what that includes.

T. Kozak discussed the MMA Meeting that he attended with Kevin Filchik, stating that the meeting was about emergency management.

T. Kozak discussed the Sturbridge Tourist Association meeting that he attended.

T. Kozak discussed creating a Disability Commission in Sturbridge and that he had reached out to the Commission to find out the process for Sturbridge. It would have to be accepted at Town Meeting to be created.

Salli Green – Use of Senior Center Lawn Request

Salli Green, Alternatives for Health, came forward to request the use of Senior Center Lawn for an Earthfest event in October of 2019.

Motion: To approve of Alternative for Health's use of the Senior Center Lawn for the Earthfest Event in October of 2019. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Public Hearing: Forest Cutting Plan – Logging Permit Request – James DiMaio

M. Dowling read the logging permit Legal Ad submitted to the Southbridge Evening News by James DiMaio.

James DiMaio and David Peterkin came forward and J. DiMaio explained why he needed a logging permit. J. DiMaio stated that they would like to do a clean-up of the damaged trees from the Tornado a few years ago and would also like to clean up trees that have been damaged by the Gypsy Moth infestation.

M. Suprenant asked about the two locations that the logging trucks would be using onto Holland Road, and asked if they would be using an existing driveway.

J. DiMaio stated that it is an existing driveway and explained background information around locations trucks would be using.

M. Suprenant stated that there should be coordination between school buses from Holland and Sturbridge and logging trucks and asked for J. DiMaio to check in with them as a precaution.

M. Blanchard asked when the project would begin.

J. DiMaio stated that they will delay until either the ground is fully frozen or whenever the ground dries out.

T. Kozak asked how long the project would last.

J. DiMaio stated that it will be a small operation and should only take about a month or so.

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

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the Logging Permit for James DiMaio with conditions. By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Hearing: Reinstatement of Class II License - Robert Cassim

James Erdhard, Robert Cassim's Attorney, and Robert Cassim came forward.

J. Erdhard read correspondence from Trooper Johnson and Trooper Lawrence and passed out a copy of the alleged forged title.

M. Blanchard brought up the two businesses that are currently in the same zoning site and stated that they would have to go through zoning hearing.

J. Erdhard argued that R. Cassim's license should be given back since there was no foundation for it to be taken away in the first place. He then discussed that the zoning issue shouldn't be a reason why R. Cassim shouldn't get his license back. J. Erdhard said there was no issue with zoning because the tree service company hasn't signed a lease.

M. Blanchard stated that if there is a change in use of the zone then there needs to be a hearing by the ZBU. One business is a tree service business and isn't allowed in that zone. M. Blanchard would like to keep the suspension until the charges go through and after the zoning issues are cleared up.

J. Erdhard stated that R. Cassim has had no prior violations.

P. Gimás stated that there have been prior violations.

M. Suprenant asked about his request for Lemon Law violation information and never heard back regarding that issue. M. Suprenant stated that Trp. Johnson had promised to get back to the BOS regarding whether the cars sold by Mr. Cassim had been inspected by a Massachusetts Inspection Agency.

M. Blanchard stated there have been issues, there are issues, and the issues need to be cleaned up before the reinstatement of the license.

M. Dowling stated that she agrees with R. Cassim's Counsel about reinstating the suspended license because the court case was dismissed and the basis of the suspension was due to the pending charges. She further stated that the issue of whether or not Cassim violated zoning bylaws by the use of the premises (other than his auto business) is a separate matter that needs to go through the zoning process in the event that the building inspector believes a violation occurred. The present hearing is not about that issue. M. Dowling further stated that the State Troopers should have attended the meeting to give back up information and testimony regarding the assertions they made in their emails to the BOS.

P. Gimás stated that she thinks the hearing should be put on hold and continued with the State Police in attendance to give their statements.

M. Blanchard agreed.

Motion: To continue hearing until November 19, 2018 with request that the State Police attend. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3-2 (M. Dowling & C. Kaitbenski Opposed)

P. Gimás asked the Building Inspector, N. Burlingame, for a report regarding the zoning concerns for the November 19th meeting.

J. Erdhard requested that he be copied on all communications with R. Cassim.

Ed Galonek – Abatement Appeal for Water and Sewer Charges

Ed Galonek came forward and introduced himself.

M. Blanchard discussed that it was too late to appeal the charges and that they had him at the meeting as a curtesy.

Ed Galonek discussed what happened regarding a \$6000 water bill over ten day period and that it was most likely stolen.

M. Blanchard stated that if it was a tenant issue then it should be taken care of through the courts.

P. Gimás stated that the water should have been shut off on the street and not just in the house.

M. Blanchard stated that the Board of Selectmen doesn't have a right to make a decision because the Town isn't at fault.

Motion: To deny the abatement appeal from Ed Galonek for water charges. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski abstained)

New Business

M. Suprenant discussed his attendance of the annual MA Transportation Association meeting and discussed the trails project. M. Suprenant stated that he wants to get more information from the Trails Committee regarding the project and why they aren't spending the federal grant money.

T. Kozak stated he would be willing to investigate it

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve Board of Selectmen minutes from October 15, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectmen minutes from October 22, 2018. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 4-0-1 (M. Dowling Abstained)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectmen minutes from October 29, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To adjourn at 7:53 p.m. By: P. Gimás

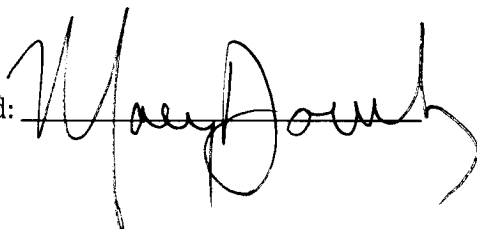
2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

12/17/18