

**Board of Selectmen
November 19, 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:

Senator Anne Gobi
Representative Todd Smola
Nelson Burlingame, Building Inspector
Trooper Gene Lawrence, MA State Police
Laura Napolitano, National Grid
Jesse Martin, Charles River Services
James Ehrhard, Counsel to Robert Cassim
Robert Cassim, Sturbridge Auto Sales
James McRoy, Berkley Tree Services
Nancy Bixby, Altruist Brewing
Chief John Grasso, Fire Dept.
Chief Tom Ford, Police Dept.
Colby Tytula, Police Dept.

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

M. Suprenant wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- Winter tree scavenger hunt Friday Nov. 23rd at Heins Farm
- Reminder about the tree lighting ceremony
- Winter parking ban – now until April 15th
- Let the record show that the meeting was being recorded by the Telegram and Gazette

Public Hearing: National Grid – Pole Installation

M. Dowling read the legal ad for the National Grid Pole Hearing.

Laura Napolitano from National Grid came before the Board of Selectmen and stated that National Grid needed to install new poles in Town because of a new resident on Podunk Rd.

M. Suprenant asked if the poles would be shared with other utilities.

L. Napolitano stated that they would be.

M. Blanchard asked if they had received the report from the DPW.

L. Napolitano stated that the owner of the project probably has it but she will verify.

Motion: To close public hearing for pole installation. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To Approve the application for pole installation by National Grid. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Meeting with Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Todd Smola

Anne Gobi and Todd Smola came before the Board of Selectmen.

Senator Gobi stated that L. Gaumond had provided them a list of capital projects/supplemental budgets before he left Sturbridge.

Rep. Smola discussed FY20 budgets, pyrrhotite study commission, and the East West Rail Study.

The Board discussed the need for traffic lights or a rotary on Rt. 20 near the brewery/LNG Charlton location. Senator Gobi stated that it has been brought to MA DOT.

The Board discussed any potential grant money for a senior center or community center.

Rep. Smola stated that he is not aware of a dedicated source for senior centers or community centers.

M. Suprenant recommended State funding of 300 Million for Chapter 90 regarding road maintenance and 88 Million for funding for Public Transportation.

Continuation of Class II License Hearing – Robert Cassim

Trooper Lawrence, James Ehrhard, Robert Cassim came before the Board of Selectmen.

Trooper Lawrence discussed the current investigation in Robert Cassim, stated that the original charges were for Mr. Cassim not keeping a book for five years. Trooper Lawrence stated that during the time R. Cassim had his license suspended he had gone to the DMV to register a title. Tpr.

Lawrence discussed the title that R. Cassim was trying to register and stated that R. Cassim had sold a car within the time his Class II License was suspended.

J. Ehrhard stated that the reason they were having this meeting was to reinstate Mr. Cassim's Class II License after first investigation in which charges were dropped. J. Ehrhard stated that he had called Dudley District Court and had found that no new charges had been brought against Mr. Cassim.

M. Blanchard asked Tpr. Lawrence if he intended to press charges against R. Cassim.

Tpr. Lawrence responded that yes he planned on filing charges, he is still working on the investigation.

M. Dowling questioned why the only charges brought against R. Cassim were regarding his book keeping and not the Vermont Title circumvention as alleged by the officers at the previous BOS meeting. M. Dowling stated that the officers were under a duty to inform the BOS that no law had been violated since the BOS vote was premised on the Officers' insertions that R. Cassim's practice of having vehicles inspected in Vermont violated MA law.

Tpr. Lawrence stated that R. Cassim circumvented the law but that there was no statute to press charges.

C. Kaitbenski stated that they should follow due process and the Board should reinstate R. Cassim's Class II license and then take appropriate action if a court hearing happens.

P. Gimas stated that the safety of these cars is a concern.

J. Ehrhard stated that the issue of safety is not what the hearing is about and that he doesn't believe the State Police will file charges.

M. Blanchard stated that she is in favor of reinstating R. Cassim's Class II license but if new charges are brought forward they will have another hearing regarding R. Cassim's license.

M. Dowling stated that at the August hearing the issues that were brought before the Board by the State Police were in regards to the safety of the cars and no further information has come to them from the State Police regarding the issues.

Tpr. Lawrence stated that the State has realized the loophole that R. Cassim used to circumvent process and has fixed the laws to close the gap and keep it from happening again.

M. Dowling asked if the people who bought the cars that were titled in Vermont had been notified.

Tpr. Lawrence state that he would find out.

Motion: To reinstate Class II License for Robert Cassim, Sturbridge Auto Sales. By: C. Kaibenski

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 4-1 (P. Gimás opposed)

Motion: Request to have Tpr. Lawrence reach out to those who bought cars from R. Cassim that didn't have MA State Inspection. By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 3 – 2 (P. Gimás & M. Blanchard opposed)

33 Main Street Zoning Violations

Nelson Burlingame came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the zoning bylaws regarding 33 Main Street, Sturbridge Auto Sales regarding a tree business using the same zone as the car sales business.

James McRoy came before the Board and stated that his business had outgrown his original location in Southbridge and he came across R. Cassim's garage for rent on Craigslist. He stated that he and R. Cassim had made a verbal agreement and J. McRoy was helping to clean up 33 Main. He stated that he wasn't sure he wanted to stay at 33 Main Street now that there was an investigation into R. Cassim by the State Police and that he doesn't have a Sturbridge Business License because he's been putting off the proper steps.

M. Blanchard stated that any change in use to a zone needs to have a special permit and operating a business in Sturbridge without a Sturbridge Business License is not allowed.

M. Blanchard stated that R. Cassim should appeal with the ZBA.

M. Dowling added that 33 Main Streets messy lot should also be addressed.

M. Blanchard asked R. Cassim if he planned on appealing with the ZBA. R. Cassim stated that he did.

Department Head Updates

Fire Department

Chief Grasso came before the Board and discussed Fire Department updates.

Building Department

Nelson Burlingame came before the Board and discussed Building Department updates.
M. Dowling asked if Edward's Gas was putting in new gas pumps.
N. Burlingame stated that they are putting in pumps and a convenience store.

Police Department

Chief Ford came before the Board and discussed Police Department updates.
Chief Ford talked about No Shave November in which the Police Department was raising money for Cops for Kids with Cancer, Chief Ford stated they had already raised \$1020 in donations.
The Board and Chief Ford discussed motor vehicle citation and accident increases.

Concur with Appointment of Colby Tytula as a Full-Time Police Officer

Chief Ford and Colby Tytula came before the Board and Chief Ford discussed wanting to appoint C. Tytula as a full-time Police Officers at \$28.27/Hour with a start date of November 20, 2018.

Motion: To concur with appointment of Colby Tytula as a full-time Police Officer at \$28.27/Hour starting on November 20, 2018. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Concur with Appointment of Vincent Lanzillo to the Affordable Housing Committee

Motion: To concur with appointment of Vincent Lanzillo to the Affordable Housing Committee. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Request for Driver Livery License – Charles River Service Inc. – Jesse Martin

Motion: To approve a driver livery license to Jesse Martin for Charles River Services, Inc. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak gave updates to the Board of Selectmen regarding:

- Department Head Meeting
- Veterans Day Event at the Old Burial Ground
- MMA Meeting
- DPW Director Position
- Town Hall Office Hours

T. Kozak asked the Board to consider closing Town Hall the Friday after Thanksgiving.
The Board discussed and then determined to look into it in the future but to not close for this year.

Old Business

The Board of Selectmen discussed the tax percentage for recreational marijuana sales.

M. Suprenant gave an update on the CMRPC meeting he attended the prior week and discussed the possibility of public transportation between Sturbridge and Worcester and Springfield.

New Business

Altruist Brewing request for Sunday Hours from 12-6pm.

Motion: To extend hours at Altruist Brewing from 12 – 6pm on Sundays. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence.

The Board discussed the notification of a dangerous dog and the FEMA notification.

M. Blanchard read a correspondence regarding ways to increase civic education in high school students.

Approval of Minutes

November 5, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes from November 5, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Citizen's Forum

The Board discussed a dry hydrant issue.

Motion: To adjourn at 9:10 p.m. By: P. Gimás

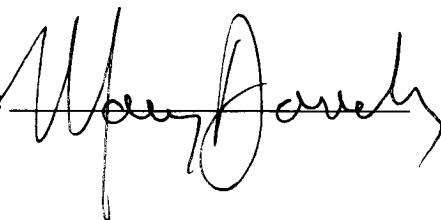
2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date approved:

12/17/18