

**Board of Selectmen  
December 17, 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:**

Lee Palmer – Hemlock Ridge Golf Course  
John Flaherty – Osterman Propane  
Kevin Filchak – Economic Development  
Shane Moody – Water & Sewer  
Greg Morse - DPW

**Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Public Service Announcements**

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- Chokesaver Training Class for Town Businesses January 14, 2019

The Board wished everyone Happy Holidays.

M. Dowling gave an update on the Town Administrator Search Committee, stating that they are in the interview process and are pleased with the results so far.

**Accept Donation of Tools and Supplies from the Northern Tree Service to the Trails Committee**

**Motion: To accept the donation of tools and supplies from the Northern Tree Service to the Trails Committee. By: P. Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Concur with Appointment of Matthew Cole as Part-Time Dispatcher to the Police Dept.**

**Motion: To concur with the appointment of Matthew Cole as a Part-Time Dispatcher to the Police Dept. at \$18.94/hour, starting December 18, 2018. By: M. Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimas**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Correspondence**

M. Dowling read the correspondence.

### **Public Hearing: Transfer of Liquor License – Hemlock Ridge Golf Course**

M. Dowling read the legal ad for the public hearing.

Lee Palmer from Hemlock Ridge Golf Course came before the Board of Selectmen and explained that he needed to transfer the liquor license owner for Hemlock Ridge from Marc Palmer to himself since Marc Palmer passed away.

**Motion: To transfer the liquor license for Hemlock Ridge Golf Course from Marc Palmer to Lee Palmer. By: C. Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Suprenant**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

### **Town Administrator's Update**

- DPW Search Committee has been established and they have 5 applicants for the position.
- Complete Streets/Habitat for Humanity - meeting had to be canceled and the meeting has been rescheduled
- Liability Insurance Program, had a meeting with rep from MIIA, the town is doing very well with insurance and liability – if a 2 year agreement is made with MIIA for liability they will freeze any rate amount increase.

**Motion: To allow the Town Administrator to negotiate a 2 year contract with MIIA. By: M. Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

- Update on department head meeting, working on annual budgets.
- Town Hall Lock Installation has been completed

### **Petition to Make Farquhar Rd. a Restricted Road**

P. Gimas stepped down and came before the Board of Selectmen as a citizen and explained the petition that was collected to make Farquhar Road a restricted road.

M. Blanchard asked P. Gimas what was meant by restricted.

P. Gimas explained that Farquhar Rd. becoming a restricted road would mean that people who live in the community can use the road but it shouldn't be used as a through way for tracker trailer trucks and commercial vehicles and shouldn't be used short cut for Route 131. The road was not made for 18 wheelers/or commercial buses. P. Gimas stated that other towns had made roads restricted like Wrentham and a town in New York. Champeaux Bridge is first on the list for repair and the Town did not receive state funds, which puts Farquhar Rd. bridge repair out many more years. The residents who live in the area are concerned for the winter when it snows, that with all the new traffic the plows are going to have a hard time plowing because cars will be blocking the road, and the bridge can't handle the increase in traffic.

M. Dowling asked if there were any current restrictions in place on the road.

M. Blanchard stated that there are restrictions regarding the amount of weight that is allowed on the bridge, and stated that there is a lot of information to look at before they make Farquhar restricted.

G. Morse, DPW Director, came forward and stated that enforcement would be the biggest issue, that there is no consideration of low limit bridge or low height bridge and they would need to do something like a class action law suit.

The Board discussed various things that could be done regarding Farquhar Road. P. Gimás stated that Holidays have the worst traffic. M. Suprenant suggested contacting GPS companies asking them to change their truck routes.

M. Blanchard stated that they should do more research on the issue and come back together to figure out a solution.

### **Public Hearing: Amendment of Underground Storage Tank Permit – Osterman Propane**

M. Dowling read the legal ad for the public hearing.

John Flaherty from Osterman Propane came before the Board and explained why they needed an amendment for their original Underground Storage Tank Permit.

M. Suprenant asked if the tanks were going in a different location than the original tanks and if Osterman owned the tanks.

J. Flaherty stated that they would be in a new location and that Osterman does own the tanks.

**Motion: To close the public hearing. By: P. Gimás**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Suprenant**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski Abstained)**

**Motion: To approve amendment of underground storage tank permit for Osterman Propane.**

**By: P. Gimás**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Suprenant**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski Abstained)**

### **Presentation of First Impressions Program – Kevin Filchak & Williamstown**

K. Filchak and representatives from Williamstown came forward and presented to the Board about a study they did regarding tourism in Sturbridge.

After the presentation the Board discussed with K. Filchak and representatives, their findings and ways to improve some of the problem areas within Sturbridge.

### **Department Heads Updates**

#### **Economic Development/Tourism**

K. Filchak came before the Board and discussed his FY2019 goals and announced that the Special Events Committee has an opening and will have another opening in June 2019.

K. Filchak asked the Board to encourage people to speak with their teams about how businesses in town are doing.

The Board and K. Filchak discussed the narrative of Sturbridge, the development of the Economic Development position and a continuation of discussion regarding the undergrounding of wires and a possible rotary.

#### Water & Sewer

S. Moody came before the Board and discussed his operation report updates regarding winterizing hydrants, zinc removal process, and addition of fluoride to town water.

S. Moody stated that because of new DEP regulations Sturbridge would either need to stop adding fluoride to town water or would need to add new analyzer equipment.

The Board discussed the Fluoride issue and decided they aren't in favor of stopping fluoride treatment.

**Motion: To continue fluorinating the drinking water in Sturbridge. By: M. Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

The Board discussed the changes in rules from the DEP and fluoride testing.

#### DPW

G. Morse came before the Board and gave updates regarding the DPW.

#### Interim Town Administrator Contract Extension

**Motion: To Continue Town Administrator Contract for another three months under original negotiated contract. C. Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimás**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

#### New Business

M. Suprenant stated that Wednesday he would be attending a Transportation meeting on the future of transportation in Massachusetts.

The Board discussed bridges in town.

M. Dowling gave an update regarding the Town Administrator Search Committee and would like to have the committee present the three finalists to the Board of Selectmen at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and for the Board to interview the finalists the following week either Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup>.

P. Gimás asked when the public would be able to make comments on the three finalists.

The Board discussed a meet and greet for citizens and the finalists after the interviews are finished on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Decided to make January 16<sup>th</sup> a backup date for interviews.

The Board discussed Senior Center hours on Christmas Eve.

**Approval of Minutes**

December 3, 2018

**Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from December 3, 2018. By: P. Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Suprenant**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

December 6, 2018

**Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from December 6, 2018. By: P. Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (M. Suprenant abstained)**

**Motion: To adjourn. By: P. Gimas**

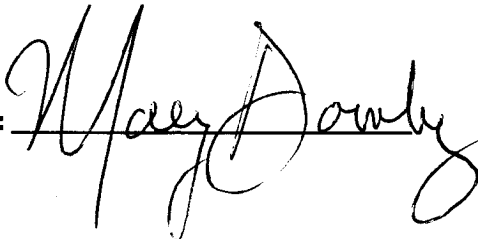
**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Blanchard**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

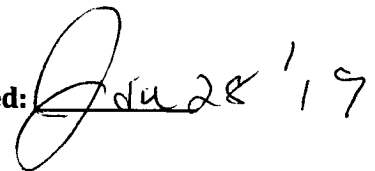
**Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

**Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy**

**Clerk of the Board:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Dowling", written over a horizontal line.

**Date signed:**

A handwritten date "Jan 28 '19" written in cursive script over a horizontal line.