

**Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2019
Town Hall**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Chief Ford, Police Chief
Jean Bubon, Town Planner
Shane Moody, Water & Sewer
Butch Jackson, DPW Director
Mark Augello, DPW
Nicole Patterson
Ramonita Brunell
Tami Warner
John Maguire
Michele Rosano
Gary Galonek
Ed Galonek
Zeina Al-Mansour

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Blanchard read the agenda.

Motion: To move into Executive Session – Pursuant to MGL c. 30A s.21(a)(2) to discuss contract negotiations for new Town Administrator, where the Chair of the Board of Selectmen declares that discussion in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the Town By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Roll Call Vote: (All in Favor) P. Gimás – Yes, C. Kaitbenski – Yes, M. Suprenant – Yes, M. Dowling – Yes, M. Blanchard – Yes

6:40 pm. The Board of Selectmen reconvened in open session.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- Annual Boston Bruins Pajama Drive, now through March 15 – Drop off at the Joshua Hyde Public Library

Vote on Contract for New Town Administrator

Motion: To accept contract for new Town Administrator pending police background check. P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Recognize the Tantasqua Carpentry Class for Completion of Riverlands Trail Side Shed Chief

M. Blanchard congratulated the Tantasqua Carpentry Class for completion of Riverlands Trail side shed and read the certificates for each student: Mallaidh Beatty, Cameron Caunt, Jeremy Colby, Joseph Cserny, Cara Desrosiers, Liam Hanrahan, Noah Jacob, Andrew MacPhee, Korinne Malay, Salvatore Palano, Owen Shaw, Patrik Shea, Desiree Thomison, & Madison Trent.

Appointments

Chief Ford came before the Board of Selectmen and gave a brief background on Nicole Patterson as a candidate for the Full-Time Police Officer Position for the Police Dept.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Nicole Patterson to the Full-Time Police Officer Position at a rate of \$24.80 effective on February 26, 2019. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Chief Ford stated that he also had five Part-Time Dispatcher positions he would like to ask the Board to concur with. Chief Ford gave a background on the candidates for part-time dispatchers and asked them to come up when he stated their names (Linda Hatch not present).

Motion: To concur with the appointments of the following candidates, at rates presented, effective February 26, 2019. By: P. gimás

(Ramonita Brunell, Tami Warner, John Maguire, Linda Hatch, Michele Rosano)

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Discussion on Purchase of 501 Main Street – Gary Galonek

Ed and Gary Galonek came before the Board to discuss if the Town still had an interest in purchasing the lot at 501 Main Street.

M. Blanchard stated that there is a desperate need in town for municipal parking.

M. Dowling thanked them for coming to the Town before they pursued other options with the land.

E. Galonek asked if zoning allowed for commercially operated parking in Town. J. Bubon responded that zoning does differentiate between commercially run or town run parking areas.

E. Galonek asked what the next steps would be if the Town was interested in the lot.

M. Blanchard stated that the Town Administrator would work with the Town Planner and a warrant article would need to go to either the Annual Town Meeting or the Special Town Meeting.

Zeina & Mazen Al-Mansour – Abatement Appeal for Water Charges

Zeina Al-Mansour came before the Board of Selectmen and discussed the reason she is contesting

her water bill. She stated that there was a leak in the basement bathroom that they were unaware of that caused an extremely high water bill.

M. Blanchard stated that legally the Board of Selectmen can't abate water bills if the Town was not at fault and stated that usually the finance department would offer a payment plan for this type of situation.

Z. Al-Mansour stated that she was not offered a payment plan when she paid the bill but also stated that she didn't ask for one.

M. Dowling stated that she was sorry they were not offered a payment plan.

Motion: To deny abatement of the water bill. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Dowling stated to T. Kozak that when these type of situations arise the Town should be offering the residents a payment plan. T. Kozak stated that he was unaware of that procedure but he will make sure it happens going forward.

Department Head Updates

Planning Dept.

J. Bubon came forward and gave an update to the Board of Selectmen regarding all the projects and plans that are happening with the Planning Department.

The Board and J. Bubon discussed the training for the new permitting software.

The Board and J. Bubon discussed affordable housing and the RFP for affordable housing at 228 Cedar Street, J. Bubon asked the Board for their support on the RFP.

Motion: To support the RFP for affordable housing at 228 Cedar Street. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Discussion: M. Suprenant pointed out some wording inconsistencies in the RFP.

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Dowling brought up that Table 3 was thinking of extending and asked if 7 Cedar Street was being rezoned.

J. Bubon stated that it was, right now it's residential and it needs to be rezoned to commercial.

Water & Sewer

S. Moody came forward and gave an update to the Board regarding Water & Sewer for December and January. He discussed the Zinc pilot, stating that the results so far look good and they are planning on running the pilot for another month. S. Moody discussed a sulfide gas issue that is now occurring.

M. Suprenant asked about the amount of emergency calls and repairs. S. Moody stated that it was mostly E1 pumps and thinks instead of E1 pumps, small pump stations should be put in but most developers want to use E1 pumps because they are cheaper.

C. Kaitbenski praised S. Moody and his team for the repairs of the water main break.

DPW

B. Jackson and M. Augello came forward and M. Augello gave the January and February updates regarding the DPW.

B. Jackson discussed the clearing of Town sidewalks and that he has been clearing all sidewalks in Town.

The Board and B. Jackson discussed relooking at the sidewalk cleaning bylaw and that they may need to change it because right now it is up to the businesses to clear the sidewalks but many aren't being compliant. Bylaw 6.52

T. Kozak and the Board thanked M. Augello for his hard work while there was no DPW Director.

M. Dowling and B. Jackson discussed a bridge repair report.

Meeting with the Recreation Committee Regarding 60 & 70 Cedar Street

The meeting with the Recreation Committee was postponed, the Recreation Committee will let the Board of Selectmen know when they are ready to meet with them regarding Cedar Street.

Vote to Approve Special Use Permit – Alum Pond Dock – Canoe/Kayak Event

Motion: To approve special use permit for a canoe/kayak event on Alum Pond. By: P. Gimás
2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote on 2019 BOS Goals

The Board discussed the 2019 Board of Selectmen goals, they decided which goals they want to keep and which items don't need to be goals.

M. Blanchard discussed the Personnel Committee and how there is an issue with employees constantly coming forward requesting pay raises and step increases.

The Board and T. Kozak discussed the possibility of starting to use an outside source or Personnel Classifications.

The Board discussed the Shepard parcel regarding the fields' projects.

The Board discussed Conservation bylaws and C. Kaitbenski asked if the Board of Selectmen has any say in their regulations.

T. Kozak stated that the Selectmen and the Conservation Committee should meet and discuss.

The Board decided that the MBTA Bus/Regional Transportation for Sturbridge would be a long term goal.

C. Kaitbenski stated that there are citizens who would like to know when tax payoffs regarding Town Projects are used. M. Blanchard stated that that information is in the Fin Com Report that they give out at Town Meeting.

The Board discussed an official Town social media page. M. Dowling stated that she attended a workshop on municipal social media pages and how to successfully run them. The Board discussed that maybe J. Bridges can look into this subject when he starts.

The Board discussed trash pickup vs. the landfill. P. Gimás stated that she thinks even if the Town doesn't have free trash pickup, the money saved from closing the landfill would benefit the Town.

The Board discussed the sewer rate study and decided they want to do a complete water/sewer rate study.

The Board discussed Town facility needs, M. Blanchard stated that the last study showed that the DPW needed work first, then the Public Safety Complex, then the Senior Center but it seems the Town is already moving forward with the Senior Center.

T. Kozak and the Board discussed Selectmen compensation, T. Kozak stated that it wouldn't be a 2019 goal but that he would put it into the budget.

The Board discussed the parking situation at the Senior Center and possible solutions.

M. Dowling stated that J. Bridges needs to be told what the Town is already working on along with what the 2019 goals are.

Discuss and Vote on Town Hall Holiday Hours

T. Kozak brought up concerns around Town Hall hours around holidays, and suggested the Town Hall close at noon on Christmas Eve and then regular scheduled hours for the rest of the week after Christmas. T. Kozak also brought up that New Year's Eve is on a Tuesday this year, which is the Town Halls extended hours day, he suggested that the Town Hall stay open until 4pm instead of 7pm and then regular hours the rest of the week. T. Kozak asked the Board if they supported the day after Thanksgiving and/or the day after the 4th of July closing Town Hall.

The Board decided they supported Christmas Eve closing at noon and New Year's Eve closing at 4pm, the majority of the Board did not support closing the day after Thanksgiving or July 4th.

Motion: To close Town Hall on December 24th at noon and December 31st at 4pm with the continuation of regular hours for the rest of the week (no late night). By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: That the Town Hall will not close the day after Thanksgiving and/or the day after the 4th of July in 2019. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Blanchard

Discussion: M. Dowling stated that she thinks closing the day after Thanksgiving is reasonable.

M. Suprenant asked if the Union employees have those days off, it was determined that they do not.

Vote: 4-1 (M. Dowling opposed because she supports day after Thanksgiving but does not support day after 4th of July)

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak gave updates to the Board of Selectmen regarding, the Land-use Meeting, the MPO Meeting, the commercial traffic issue, the Cub Scouts Meeting, the Capital Committee, and the Personnel Committee Meeting.

T. Kozak stated that he spoke with the Worcester County Selectmen's Association and they would like to have a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on April 17th from 6-8pm in the Town Hall and that the Association would give the Town \$100 for refreshments.

The Board decided that they were all in favor of the meeting and asked T. Kozak to set it up.

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence.

M. Blanchard asked if anyone on the Board was available to go to the AMVETS meeting and stated that if no one could go we would send a letter.

The Board discussed the upcoming MMA Breakfast.

Old Business

P. Gimas asked that when the Recreation Committee wants to meet with the Board regarding Cedar Street that they get the information from the Committee before the meeting.

New Business

M. Suprenant stated that on Wednesday he will be attending a MMA meeting at the State House regarding the Housing Choice Program, Thursday he is going to try to attend a meeting regarding solid waste management in Boston and a MSA quarterly meeting.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:43pm. By: P. Gimas

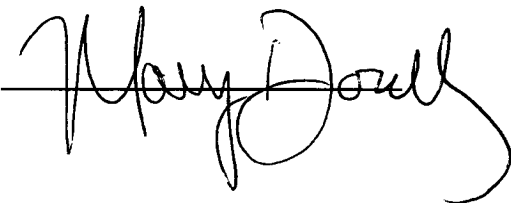
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

