

**Board of Selectmen
March 18, 2019
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Micheal Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Jeneé Lacy, Admin Assistant

Also Present:

Robin Lataille
Bryanna Shackeff
Jayesh Patel
Heather Hart, CPC
Chief Tom Ford, Police Chief
Nelson Burlingame, Building Inspector
Chief John Grasso, Fire Chief

Absent:

Ted Kozak, Interim Town Administrator

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Blanchard read the agenda

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- March 29, 2019 Family Ham Toss 6pm-8:30pm Burgess Elementary School Lower Gym
- April 18, 2019 The 40th Annual Food Share Radiothon 7am-5pm Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center
- April 25, 2019 Community Bonfire on the Sturbridge Town Common
- May 31, 2019 Senior Center Showcase 1-4pm

Pole Hearing Continuation – National Grid Summit Ridge & Intersection of Fiske Hill Road

M. Blanchard announced that National Grid had withdrew the petition for the pole hearing.

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

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Proclamation of Donate Life Month to the New England Organ Bank & Request for Flag Raising

M. Blanchard read the proclamation for Donate Life Month.

Motion: To sign proclamation for Donate Life Month to the New England Organ Bank. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

The Board presented the proclamation to Robin Lataille from the New England Organ Bank and scheduled a time for the Donate Life flag raising event on the Sturbridge Town Common on April 1, 2019 at 3:30pm.

Vote to Approve Livery Driver Permit – Bryana Shackeff

Bryana Shackeff came before the Board of Selectmen. M. Suprenant asked if the Board had a permit from Charles River Services that lists all the vehicles covered by the livery license. J. Lacy stated that we did.

Motion: To approve the Livery Driver Permit for Bryana Shackeff. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Approve 1-Day Liquor License – Outdoor Fishing Derby – Hamilton Rod & Gun

Motion: To approve 1-Day Liquor License for the Hamilton Rod & Gun Outdoor Fishing Derby, April 20th, 8-2. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaibenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Request from the Old Sturbridge Academy to Plant a Tree in Town for Better World Day

M. Blanchard stated that the Old Sturbridge Academy would also need to work with the Tree Warden on the tree planting process.

Motion: To approve the planting of a tree in Town for Better World Day. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Concur with Re-Appointment of Marge Cooney to the ZBA

M. Blanchard stated that the ZBA seat would need to be posted as an opening and then all re-appointments will be done together.

Vote to Approve Two Promotions within the DPW

M. Blanchard read request for two DPW promotions for David Lamontagne and Andrew McDermott.

Motion: To approve the promotions of David Lamontagne from Equipment Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator with a rate of pay of \$22.56 and Andrew McDermott from Laborer/Driver to Equipment Operator with a rate of pay of \$20.56, both effective 3/19/19.

By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Accept Donation of \$100 from WAITT to the Sturbridge Farmers Market

Motion: To accept the donation of \$100 from WAITT to the Sturbridge Farmers Market. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Approve and Sign the Annual Town Election Warrant

M. Blanchard read the Annual Town Election Warrant.

M. Blanchard and P. Gimas discussed the change in the opening time for the election.

P. Gimas stated that the word eighth on the Election Warrant was spelled incorrectly. J. Lacy stated that she would have the Town Clerk make the correction and reprint the Warrants.

Motion: To approve and sign the Annual Town Election Warrant as amended. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Department Head Updates

Police Department

Chief Ford came before the Board of Selectmen and gave updates regarding the months of January and February.

M. Blanchard asked why there was a lack of staffing, Chief Ford stated that it's due to staff turnover and the hiring pool has been relatively dry.

M. Blanchard stated that she received a letter commending both the Fire and the Police Department and read parts of the letter.

Building Department

N. Burlingame came before the Board and gave his Department updates regarding businesses in Town and where they were in their construction projects.

M. Blanchard stated that on the report it mentions hoping the personnel committee does a grade review and she let N. Burlingame know that the Personnel Committee voted to recommend to the TA and Board of Selectmen that they move forward on hiring an outside firm to review the classifications of employees.

N. Burlingame brought up the demolition of 7 Main Street and wants to talk to KP Law and have them do a legal brief and hopefully take it to court and be able to do demolition. N. Burlingame also brought up 551 Leadmine Road possible demolition and stated that when the new Town Administrator starts he will bring him up to speed on the issues.

P. Gimás asked if the demolitions would be out of the \$75,000 that was allocated to the Building Department. N. Burlingame stated that he wasn't sure. M. Blanchard stated that she would like to wait for T. Kozak to get back from vacation and/or when J. Bridges starts to really dig into this issue. M. Suprenant stated that the Building Inspector has done his research and that the issue should probably go to court but it wouldn't hurt to wait the two weeks for the new Town Administrator to start. M. Dowling stated that N. Burlingame did nice work in conducting due diligence.

Heather Hart of the Community Preservation Committee, came before the Board and brought pictures of the trailer on Leadmine Road that needs demolition. She showed the pictures to the Board and stated that the trailer is very close to the water and conservation has determined that it needs demolition.

M. Blanchard asked if N. Burlingame had a copy of the original conservation report on the property. N. Burlingame stated that he doesn't have it with him but can get it.

M. Suprenant asked if the Town were to demolish the structure, what would happen to the well and septic. N. Burlingame stated that the well would be decommissioned and the septic would need to be crushed.

P. Gimás asked about the Escape Room that is going in below Teddy G's, and whether there was a problem with the asphalt in the back of the location, stating that she doesn't want the person opening the business to be effected by this issue.

M. Blanchard stated that the asphalt issue was brought before the Planning Board and they stated that it was approved.

M. Dowling discussed the Escape Room and the awning for the new gas station.

The Board discussed the gas station and convenience store with N. Burlingame and H. Hart.

M. Suprenant discussed the 5 Leave Development Project regarding making Sturbridge eligible to be a Housing Choice Community.

M. Blanchard stated that she received notification from the Chairman of the Housing Partnership stating that M. Maselli came before the Board of Selectmen on his own and not with the appointment of the Housing Partnership, when he came to speak of 5 Leaves.

Fire Department

Chief Grasso came before the Board and gave his department updates for January and February.

M. Blanchard stated that the pie graph in his report was hard to read because it wasn't in color.

Chief Grasso stated he would get the Board colored copies.

Chief Grasso announced two graduations from the Fire Academy and discussed the Hydrant Helper Program stating that it was a well-received program and passed out pictures to the Board of some of the kids that participated.

Old Business

P. Gimas asked if the budget books would be available before the meeting on Saturday.

M. Blanchard stated that Finance Director B. Barry said they would be ready by Tuesday.

M. Suprenant discussed his attendance at the East West Rail Meeting. And stated that if residents have any comments regarding the rail project they can pick up a form at the Selectmen's Office. The Board discussed having a rail stop in Sturbridge.

M. Dowling asked the Board if they would authorize M. Suprenant to write a letter in favor of the rail stop in Spencer for the Board of Selectmen because he is the most knowledgeable in the subject. P. Gimas stated that the Town Administrator should be the one to write the letter.

M. Dowling suggested that M. Suprenant could draft a letter for T. Kozak or J. Bridges to submit.

Motion: To authorize M. Suprenant to draft a letter regarding a rail line at the intersection of 49 and the East West Railway. By: M. Dowling

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

New Business

P. Gimas discussed getting some grants next year to fix bridges in town. M. Blanchard stated that the state grants are only for small bridges but it is something to look into.

M. Suprenant stated that he would like a review of the Town's bullying policy on the next agenda due to an incident that occurred at Town Hall.

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence.

The Board discussed the Charter Annual Complaint/Outage report and massDOT Chapter 90 local transportation aid funding.

Approval of Minutes

March 4, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes from March 4, 2019 as amended. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: P. Gimas

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

Citizen's Forum

Jayesh Patel came before the Board of Selectmen and asked the Board what the process was for permitting, stating that an email was sent to his engineer from an Administrative Assistant stating that they needed to come back before the Design Review Committee. J. Patel stated that no one was in the Building or Planning Department and when he came over to the Town Hall to speak with the Town Administrator, he was also not available because he was on vacation, stating that it was 10am and no one was available. J. Patel also discussed his complaint regarding other letters he had received from the Building Department.

M. Blanchard discussed what the process was and agreed that processes should be tightened up and that it will be discussed with the new Town Administrator.

J. Patel discussed that this wasn't the first time he has had issues doing construction projects in Sturbridge.

M. Suprenant asked J. Patel if his sign company had submitted a sign design with a different logo on it. J. Patel stated that they had not, that there was an issue during permitting and that issue had been rectified.

The Board of Selectmen and J. Patel discussed whether the Administrative Assistant of Building was acting on her own or if she was given wrong information.

P. Gimas stated that such incidences had happened before with other businesses regarding a secretary going into a business to tell the owner that they were in violation of something.

J. Patel discussed the letters he has received from other Town Departments.

M. Dowling stated that she does think it's important that any letters that come from the Town are signed by someone. The Board discussed the process and administrative assistant job descriptions.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:04 PM. By: P. Gimas

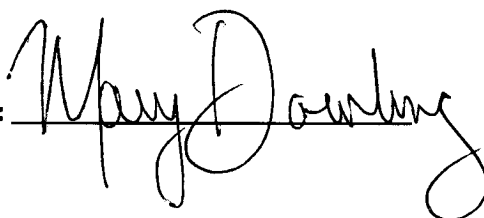
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

