

**Board of Selectmen
August 20, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator
Jeneé Lacy, Admin Assistant

Also Present:

Don Taft, Hamilton Rod & Gun Club
Trooper Robert Johnson, Massachusetts State Police
Trooper Gene Lawrence, Massachusetts State Police
Robert Cassim, Sturbridge Auto Sales
Sara Alers, Customer of Mr. Cassim
Shane Moody, Water/Sewer
Greg Morse, DPW
Rebecca Gendreau, Conservation

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:45PM

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing: Hamilton Rod & Gun Club – Gravel Removal Permit Continuation

Don Taft came forward. Mr. Taft was unable to answer any questions about the application and suggested that the Board continue the hearing to a future meeting.

**Motion: To recess Hamilton Rod & Gun Public Hearing until engineer shows up. By: P. Gimas
2nd: C. Kaitbenski**

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements from agenda.

- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey
- There will be a Sturbridge Community Bonfire on September 9, 2018 from 5pm-9pm at the Sturbridge Host Hotel.
- West Nile Virus has been discovered in Sturbridge according to a notice provided by the Board of Health.

P. Gimas discussed the mosquito spraying service and how it works

M. Dowling added extra information regarding the community bonfire.

L. Gaumond presented proclamation for Rick Hoyt Day. Proclamation was read by M. Blanchard

Motion: To approve proclamation for Rick Hoyt Day. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Public Hearing: Sturbridge Auto Sales – Used Car License revocation, suspension or modification

Trooper Johnson came forward and introduced himself.

L. Gaumond explained what is in the packet for the BOS in regards to case for Sturbridge Auto Sales. Trooper Johnson explained the investigation into Sturbridge Auto Sales. Apparently Mr. Cassim went to his friend in Vermont to have cars repaired and titled and inspected in Vermont and then would retitle it in MA circumventing the MA inspection process.

Trooper Lawrence came forward and introduced himself. Trooper Lawrence explained his part of investigation regarding the salvage title process. Process is important because of airbag issues after flooding. Cars would come back from Vermont with a clear title instead of a rebuilt title. Trooper Lawrence had met with Mr. Cassim and notified him that what he was doing was illegal. Mr. Cassim continued to do illegal process by selling another rebuilt car the next day. Trooper Johnson explained how records and receipts hadn't been kept by Mr. Cassim, and at the time Mr. Cassim didn't have workers comp.

M. Blanchard asked what the penalty would be from the State Police Department. Trooper Johnson replied that there could be a fine of up to \$500 and/or jail of 1 year or less if convicted and his business license could be revoked.

M. Dowling asked if they can find out who bought these vehicles. Trooper Lawrence discussed clear title vs. rebuild title and how information could be found through Carfax.

M. Dowling asked how the Vermont inspection process is different compared to MA. Trooper Lawrence replied that Vermont doesn't have the same inspection standards and that when the titles were made they were misrepresented as clear instead of salvage or rebuilt vehicles. Several of Mr. Cassim's cars have been flagged by the MA State Police.

Mr. Cassim (Robert) came forward and introduced himself.

Mr. Cassim explained that he had a friend in Vermont who would rebuild cars and have them inspected and Mr. Cassim would do paperwork on car and the car would stay in Vermont until the title came back. Stated that troopers keep changing regulations on inspections standards and that he didn't know he wasn't allowed to do what he was doing with inspections in Vermont.

M. Dowling asked Mr. Cassim what actions he took when he was told to cease and desist by the Troopers. Mr. Cassim replied that he was told by the Troopers not to go to Vermont anymore. M. Blanchard asked him then why did he sell another one of the Vermont rebuilt cars the next day. Mr. Cassim responded that one car was already sold but he didn't do it again after that one the next day.

M. Blanchard asked Mr. Cassim why his records are not in order. Mr. Cassim responded that his records are a mess but that he has all his receipts.

M. Blanchard stated that these inspection regulations are for the safety of the people who are buying these cars and that she is willing to suspend license pending state charges go through against Mr. Cassim. The Selectman agreed except M. Dowling. M. Dowling stated that she would like more information regarding if charges will actually be filed. Trooper Johnson stated that he would file charges the next day Tuesday August 21, 2018 and that Mr. Cassim has a pre-trial Thursday.

Sara Alers came forward and introduced herself.

Sara Alers stated that she was there in support of Mr. Cassim, that she has always been a customer of Mr. Cassim and her whole family has bought cars from him. That he has meant no malintent and has always been open about what he is selling. She stated that he has a lot of customers in the area and he is trusted in the community and that everyone knows he has no clean titles, that they all say rebuilt.

M. Suprenant asked Mr. Cassim how is it that he didn't have a lemon law notification in the windows of the cars. Mr. Cassim responded that there are little yellow stickers and he puts them on now and he gives every customer a lemon law when the car is sold.

M. Dowling stated that she wants him to go back to customers that received a clean title and notify them that they were not clean titles and that the practice should have discontinued after he was spoken to by the State Trooper.

Trooper Lawrence reiterated process Mr. Cassim went through for rebuilding his cars

M. Dowling asked how many cars were sold by Mr. Cassim after July 31. Trooper Lawrence responded that they are waiting for information to find out how many cars.

M. Suprenant asked if the car that was sold on July 31 has it gone through inspection. Trooper Lawrence stated that he will find out.

Motion: To suspend Sturbridge Auto Sales license imminently pending outcome of trial or any court actions. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Dept. Heads updates

Water/Sewer

Shane Moody discussed the monthly operation and maintenance reports for July and August. M. Suprenant asked if accepting septage from out of town is causing the failure. S. Moody responded that he doesn't believe that is the reason they are failing, the system may need expensive upgrades. M. Suprenant asked if there were any issues with toxicity testing. S. Moody responded that they did but they changed the lab they were using and haven't had further issues. M. Dowling stated that she

was under the belief that the town had suspended taking outside septic until zinc level was back in compliance. S. Moody responded that, that was correct but they starting taking septage from out of town again to generate revenue, but they were only taking septage from small vendors first to see what would happen. M. Dowling suggested that the town stop taking in outside septage again and asked why the town can't meet the zinc limit with the current equipment used at the waste plant. S. Moody stated what when the original equipment was installed the zinc limit was never brought up. The department is having a hard time regulating zinc limit, they switched chemical used and the zinc went up, so they changed back to other chemical and waiting for zinc levels to go back down. M. Dowling stated that she has never been in favor of taking outside septage and wants to see what other communities' zinc levels are. P. Gimás stated that she is in favor of raising zinc limit. S. Moody stated that he understands, if places with high zinc is coming in from outside septage, they reject it. P. Gimás asked about chlorine smell and taste in water in town which has been brought up by residents. S. Moody stated that the allowed limit is 4.0% of chlorine but they put in less than 1%. It is mandated to add enough chlorine to make water safe. S. Moody discussed starting leak audit, winterizing, one hydrant needs to be replaced.

DPW

Greg Morse introduced four new hires to be approved by the Board of Selectman.

- Andrew McDermott - Laborer/Driver starting Sept 10 at Step 1
- David Lamontagne - Light Equipment Operator starting Sept 4 at Step 1
- Chris Smith - Light Equipment Operator starting Sept 4 at Step 1
- Dan Gervasi - Heavy Equipment Operator starting Sept 4 at Step 1

M. Suprenant asked if they all are getting OSHA 10 hour training. L. Gaumond stated that they are working with MIIA, creating an OSHA training across the state being rolled out to communities. M. Suprenant wants to make sure they get OSHA training, asked what license Dan Gervasi has, not listed on resume. Also the case with Christopher, wants to make sure they have needed licenses.

Motion: To employ the following, Andrew McDermott as Step 1 Laborer/Driver starting September 10, David Lamontagne as Step 1 Light Equipment Operator starting September 4, Chris Smith as Step 1 Light Equipment Operator starting September 4, and Dan Gervasi as Step 1 Heavy Equipment Operator starting September 4. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Discussion: M. Suprenant and G. Morse discussed job titles between light equipment operator and equipment operator.

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

G. Morse discussed the six month report, maintenance discussion and gave updates. M. Suprenant stated that he noticed professional development was 0, suggested adding OSHA training. G. Morse concurred that OSHA can be added. The Board of Selectman and G. Morse discussed seasonal training. G. Morse gave June Report updates. M. Suprenant asked about Cedar property brush and asked if it would be appropriate to bring housing partnership up to date with what is going on with the habitat project. L. Gaumond stated that Habitat for Humanity wants to do another project in the

town, two lots on Cedar Street may be a possible building area, and that a representative from Habitat for Humanity will be coming back to the area in September. C. Kaitbenski brought up trash clean up in the Rte. 15 area. M. Blanchard asked about weeding the sidewalks. G. Morse stated that he was told it would be starting this week by the contractor. P. Gimás asked if the DPW does the road side trimming. G. Morse stated that they do.

Conservation

Rebecca Gendreau explained her conservation report. R. Gendreau and the Board of Selectman discussed development plan at 9 Holland Road. R. Gendreau continued explaining conservation department updates. P. Gimás asked if there was a list of areas that might be violating wetland restrictions. R. Gendreau stated that they keep track of the projects, after big storms, she will go out and see if compliance is being followed and that she gets calls from the public regarding compliance.

M. Dowling and R. Gendreau discussed unexpected delays by Town Council regarding amending bylaw regulations. And discussion regarding the idea of putting in a dog park in town.

M. Suprenant asked about dilapidated buildings and where they were in town. R. Gendreau stated that there are some old cabins, sheds, barns and that all properties were tested for asbestos and all came back positive and that they are getting quotes from vendors to find out how much asbestos removal will be for those properties. L. Gaumond stated that getting rid of dilapidated buildings has been a priority since he started in Sturbridge, and that the town would be at risk for liability if they were ever broken into.

R. Gendreau invited the Board of Selectman to the last day of Farmers Market to sit at the community table October 4th. The Board of Selectman will give it thought.

After hearing that the engineer for the Gravel Removal Hearing would not be able to attend, the Board of Selectman decided to continue the public hearing regarding the gravel removal permit for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club on September 5, 2018.

Motion: To continue the Public Hearing regarding the gravel removal permit for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club on September 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm. By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Town Administrator's Update

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to accept the resignation of Eric Rondina from the Police Department as a Part-time Patrol Officer.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Eric Rondina from the Sturbridge Police Department.

By: P. Gimás

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to accept the resignation of Tyler Bresse from the Police Department as a Dispatcher and to concur with his appointment as a full-time patrol officer.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Tyler Bresse as a full-time dispatcher from the Sturbridge Police Department and to concur with his appointment as a full-time patrol officer of the Sturbridge Police Department. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to approve the draft policy of the 1-Day Liquor License. L. Gaumond explained the draft he created for a 1-Day Liquor License application and policy. Discussion between the Board and L. Gaumond regarding MA State Law and tip certification regarding pourers. The Board decided to carry over discussion on draft policy until next meeting, September 5, 2018.

L. Gaumond announced that the Town of Sturbridge received MIIA rewards in the amount of \$15,826 and thanked all town employees.

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to accept donation of \$500 from Clearview Construction Services, Inc. to offset costs of National Night Out.

Motion: To accept a donation of \$500 from Clearview Construction Services, Inc. to offset costs of National Night Out. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond read winning bids for the Surplus Equipment Auction held by the Town of Sturbridge on August 15, 2018.

Oxford Fire Fighters Association

- Item 11 – 1975 Maxim Ladder Fire Truck – Bid: \$2,539

Uxbridge Town Hall

- Item 13 – New Air Conditioner: Artic King – Bid: \$80
- Item 14 – New Air Conditioner: Frigidaire – Bid: \$120

Brian Larson

- Item 12 – Utility Trailer – Bid: \$50
- Item 21 – 1963 international r190 fire engine – Bid: \$50
- Item 24 – 1985 466 international engine – Bid: \$10

Elissa Splaine

- Item 5 – Red Matrix Mountain Bike – Bid: \$1
- Item 9 – Blue Mountain Bike – Bid: \$1
- Item 15 – Used Air Conditioner: Whirlpool – Bid: \$1
- Item 16 – Used Air Conditioner: Frigidaire – Bid: \$1
- Item 17 – Used Air Conditioner: Model FRA296ST2 – Bid: \$1
- Item 25 – 1995 international 6 wheeler brown rear end no body – Bid: \$75

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to accept all winning bids.

Motion: To accept all winning bids from the Surplus Equipment Auction. By: M. Suprenant
2nd: P. Gimás
Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to accept the bid of \$700 from Mark Vincent of 19 Bates Hill who was interested in the pickup truck not bided on during the auction \$700. The Board was happy to accept bid.

Motion: To accept bid of \$700 from Mark Vincent for the pickup truck not bided on during the surplus equipment auction. By: P. Gimás
2nd M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond asked the Board of Selectman to consider modifying the department head report schedule. The Board of Selectman agreed that they would like to have Economic Development/Tourism and Facilities added to the schedule, but they aren't in favor for reducing the amount of meetings that Recreation and COA come to. L. Gaumond stated that he will amend the schedule.

Old Business

L. Gaumond explained and asked the Board of Selectman to approve the Right of First Refusal Policy previously presented.

Motion: To approve the Right of First Refusal policy. By: P. Gimás
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor (5-0)

L. Gaumond presented the revised Sustainability Committee Proposal and explained the changes made to the Board. P. Gimás stated that she thinks the Board should wait for the new Town Administrator to approve the committee. L. Gaumond stated that he is preparing a lengthy transition memo for the Board of Selectman, the Administrative Assistant and the new Town Administrator. M. Dowling stated that she doesn't have a problem with waiting but when the time comes she will support the approval. M. Suprenant agreed that it is important to have a sustainability committee.

L. Gaumond asked for further discussion regarding request from firefighter Gordon Holstrom to stay on working at the Sturbridge Fire Department after the mandatory date of retirement. M. Blanchard stated that he must retire at age 65 and that the law is clear and that the town should uphold the law or place a warrant on a special town meeting. M. Suprenant stated that he would like to give Mr. Holstrom a chance to work. M. Blanchard stated that she does not feel that way because of the liability concern and it could open a door to others to request. P. Gimás stated that she agrees with M. Blanchard and that Mr. Holstrom could continue teaching if he wants but continuing on as a Firefighter could be a very big liability to the town if he works past 65.

Motion: To not bring the request from Gordon Holstrom to stay on working after his retirement age forward for town meeting. - P. Gimas

2nd: M. Blanchard

Discussion: M. Dowling stated that there was a situation where someone worked past retirement age and a special position was created for him. M. Blanchard stated that it was against State Regulations. C. Kaitbenski thanked Mr. Holstrom for his years of service but agreed that it would be a liability to have him keep working after retirement age.

Vote: 3-2 (M. Suprenant & M. Dowling voted no)

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence to the Board of Selectman.

L. Gaumond stated that the Sturbridge Culture Council is looking for people to fill out survey for what they would like to see in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 9, 2016. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Dowling

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

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 12, 2016. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

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

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from September 19, 2016. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

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

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from August 2, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from August 6, 2018 as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

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

Motion: To approve Board of Selectman minutes from August 14, 2018 Planning Board Meeting. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 3-0-2 (C. Kaitbenski & Mark Dowling abstained)

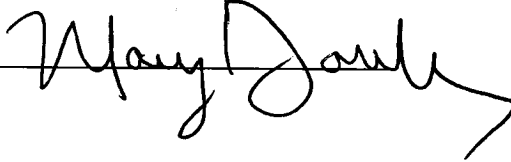
Motion: To adjourn Board of Selectman meeting at 9:16PM. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 9:16pm

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board: 

Date approved:  5 '18