

**Board of Selectmen
February 4, 2019
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Ted Kozak, Interim Town Administrator

Also Present:

Chief Ford, Police Chief
Chief Grasso, Fire Chief
Ashley Griffin
Casey Lacasse
Michael Struppa
Edy Wahib
Carol Goodwin, Open Space Chair
Lynne Peterson, Open Space
Elissa Gelfand, Open Space

Absent:

Jeneé Lacy, Admin Assistant

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements

- CMMPO Notice of Public Meeting – Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 5:00 PM CMRPC Office in Worcester
- “A Caring Place” Memory Café 2019 – Schedule of events

Accept the Resignation of Ashley Griffin from the Facilities Coordinator Position

Motion: To accept the resignation of Ashley Griffin from the Facilities Coordinator position.

By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Appointments

Chief Ford came before the Board of Selectmen to request the Board to concur with the appointments for new Safety Complex staff.

Ashley Griffin

Chief Ford introduced Ashley Griffin and asked the Board to concur with her appointment to the Full-Time Dispatchers position for the Police Department.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Ashley Griffin to the Full-Time Dispatcher position at the Safety Complex at a rate of \$21.47 per hour effective February 5, 2019. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Casey Lacasse

Chief Ford introduced Casey Lacasse and asked the Board to concur with her appointment to the Part-Time Dispatchers position for the Police Department.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Casey Lacasse to the Part-Time Dispatcher position at the Safety Complex at a rate of \$18.94 per hour effective February 5, 2019. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Justin Senigal & Luke Quatraselli

Chief Grasso came before the Board to request the board to concur with the appointment of two new Call Firefighters for the Fire Department. The first being Justin Senigal, Chief Grasso gave a brief background on J. Senigals credentials. The second Luke Quatraselli, Chief Grasso gave a brief background on L. Quatraselli's credentials.

M. Suprenant inquired as to rate of pay is received by a call fire fighter. Chief Grasso stated that the rate of pay will be consistent with the collective bargaining.

Motion: To appoint Justin Senigal to the position of Part-Time Call Firefighter effective February 5, 2019. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To appoint Luke Quatraselli to the position of Part-Time Call Firefighter effective February 5, 2019. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Blanchard asked if there was still a regulation on how many miles away a call firefighter can live. Chief Grasso stated that its 15 miles but they made sure both these new hires where within the 15 miles.

Michael Struppa

T. Kozak gave information regarding Michael Stuppas background and credentials.

M. Suprenant asked how much experience M. Struppa had regarding filing VA claims. M. Struppa stated that he has experience on both the local and federal levels.

Motion: To appoint Sargent Michael Struppa to the position of Veterans Service Director effective February 11, 2019. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Public Hearing: Fuel Storage Permit – Edy Wahib

M. Dowling read the public hearing Legal Ad from the Southbridge Evening News.

Edy Wahib came before the board of selectmen and gave a background regarding the fuel storage permit request.

M. Suprenant inquired as to where the waste storage tank would be located.

E. Wahib stated that it would be inside the building.

Motion: To approve the Fuel Storage License for Edy Wahib. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Designate Joanne Everson as a Special Municipal Employee

Motion: To designate Joanne Everson as a Special Municipal Employee to be the CPC Clerk.

By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Blanchard stated that the Board forgot to close the public hearing for E. Wahib.

P. Gimas rescinded her motion regarding the special municipal employee.

M. Blanchard asked if the public had any input regarding the storage tanks.

There was no public input.

Motion: To close the public hearing for a fuel storage permit. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To designate Joanne Everson as a Special Municipal Employee to be the CPC Clerk.

By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Request for Approval for BB5k Race – May 25th

M. Blanchard stated that the Board has had this request for the BB5K Race in the past.

Motion: To approve the BB5K Race on May 25, 2019 at Highland from 10am – 2pm. By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Open Space Committee Presentation of the Open Space Plan

Carol Goodwin, Lynne Peterson, and Elissa Gelfand from the Open Space Committee came before the Board to present the Recreation and Open Space Plan for consideration.

C. Goodwin, L. Peterson, and E. Gelfand all presented to the Selectmen aspects of the Open Space Plan and asked the Board for consideration regarding the plan.

P. Gimas stated that she liked the succinctness of the important information each member spoke to the Board about.

The Open Space Committee and the Board of Selectmen discussed open space in town, bridges, Streeter Beach and how many acres of open space is in Town.

M. Suprenant requested that the Interim Town Administrator put the re-opening of Streeter Beach on the Selectmen Goals for 2019.

Town Administrator's Update

T. Kozak gave updates regarding his attendance at the South Worcester County Chamber Lunch and the National Grid Webinar on Street Lights.

T. Kozak also updated the Board regarding his findings on Commercial Traffic on Farquhar Road and updates regarding the BOS Annual Retreat that took place over the weekend.

The Board discussed commercial traffic on Farquhar and other roads and the traffic study.

Old Business

P. Gimas stated that she attended the budget meeting for Tantasqua School District and discussed the building project for the middle school.

M. Suprenant discussed a letter that was received from Mass Housing regarding estimation of cost for Crescent Gate.

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence.

M. Dowling stated she received an email from a resident who was following the search process and indicated that he was supportive of Jeff Bridges as a candidate for Town Administrator.

Approval of Minutes

January 22, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes from January 22, 2019 – J. Bridges Interview as amended.

By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

January 22, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes from January 22, 2019 as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

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

January 28, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes from January 28, 2019 as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

M. Blanchard mentioned that the Board of Selectmen would not be having a meeting on February 19th, instead they will have it on Monday February 25th.

P. Gimas inquired as to when in March the Board would be meeting with Fincom. T. Kozak stated he would check and get back to the Board.

Executive Session

Motion: To move into Executive Session – Pursuant to MGL c. 30A s.21(a)(2) to discuss contract negotiations for new Town Administrator and MGL c. 30A s.21(a)(3) to discuss Police and Fire negotiations, 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 AND the approval of minutes not to reconvene in Open Session. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimas

Roll Call Vote: (5-0) P. Gimas – Yes, C. Kaitbenski – Yes, M. Suprenant – Yes, M. Dowling – Yes, M. Blanchard – Yes

The Board of Selectmen closed Open Session and moved into Executive Session.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

