

**Board of Selectmen
May 20, 2019
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Mike Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair

Also Present:

Chief Ford, Police Chief
Chief Grasso, Fire Chief
Nelson Burlingame, Building Inspector
Kevin Filchak, Emergency Management Coordinator
Peter Pelequin, CMRPC
Michael Johnson, Stonewall Grille
Shawn Rich, Bay State Brewing
Ian Dunigan, Bay State Brewing
Carl Nielsen, South Pond Association
Doug Vizard, South Pond Association

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reorganize the Board of Selectmen

M. Blanchard announced that before she read the agenda they were going to reorganize the Board of Selectmen.

M. Blanchard asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board.

M. Dowling nominated M. Blanchard as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

M. Suprenant seconded the nomination of M. Blanchard as Chairman.

M. Blanchard asked for any other nominations.

There were none.

**Motion: To appoint M. Blanchard as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. By: M. Dowling
2nd: M. Suprenant**

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard asked if there were any nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board.

M. Suprenant nominated M. Dowling as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.
C. Kaitbenski seconded the nomination of M. Dowling as Vice Chairman.

M. Blanchard asked for any other nominations.
There were none.

Motion: To appoint M. Dowling as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. By: M. Blanchard

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard asked if there were any nominations for Clerk of the Board.

M. Dowling nominated M. Suprenant as the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen.
C. Kaitbenski seconded the nomination of M. Suprenant as Clerk.

M. Blanchard asked for any other nominations.
There were none.

Motion: To appoint M. Suprenant as the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. By: M. Blanchard

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard stated that P. Gimás is absent from this meeting but had given the board permission to reorganize without her and that the results with the reorganization are in line with her wishes as well.

M. Blanchard read the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements.

- Memorial Day Parade – May 27th

Pole Hearing – National Grid Warren Road

M. Suprenant read the legal ad for the National Grid Pole Hearing that was posted in the Southbridge Evening News.

Diane, the rep from National Grid, came before the Board and gave a background on the reason they need to put up a new pole.

M. Suprenant asked if the existing poles were inadequate.

Diane stated that the new solar farm that was going in needed a higher fuse for the electricity they will be producing.

M. Blanchard asked if anyone from the audience had anything to say regarding the public hearing.
No one came forward.

M. Dowling asked if National Grid could add the distance from the pole to the pavement on the forms that submit to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Motion: To approve the pole petition from national grid for Warren Road. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

CMRPC Hazard Mitigation Presentation

Peter Pelequin (CMRPC), Chief Ford, and Kevin Filchak came before the Board. P. Pelequin introduced himself and gave a background regarding the Hazard Mitigation project that CMRPC has been working on with the Town for the last year. He presented a PowerPoint to the Board and discussed the process of implementing the plan with the Town.

M. Dowling inquired as to what changes were made between the last plan and the new one.

P. Pelequin stated that most changes were just improvements to already existing parts of the plan.

Chief Ford stated that some of the issue addressed in the last plan have been repaired or are in the process of being repaired so priorities have changed a bit.

The Board discussed repairs, improvements, and implementing the Hazard Mitigation plan with other Town plans and private construction and utility companies.

K. Filchak stated they were starting the 14 day public comment on the plan the following day.

Temporary Dock Permit Application – Paul Brochu

Paul Brochu was not able to attend the meeting. The Board discussed the plan for the temporary dock and the distance from the property line and size.

Motion: To approve the Temporary Dock Permit for Paul Brochu. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Common Victualler License Application – Stonewall Grille – Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson, Stonewall Grille, came before the Board to discuss his application for a common victualler license.

M. Blanchard asked about the hours of the restaurant and stated that a 1am closing time was a bit late.

M. Johnson stated that in actuality they will be closing around 10pm and stated that they are trying to open in the next few weeks and will be only serving food until they get their liquor license.

Motion: To approve the Common Victualler License for Michael Johnson – Stonewall Grille. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Discussion: M. Dowling recommended that on the application M. Johnson state that he is the president of the company.

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás)

Special One Day Liquor License Application – Bay State Brewing – Stubridge Concerts on the Common

Shawn Rich and Ian Dunigan from Bay State Brewing came before the Board and gave a background on why they wanted to have a booth at the Concerts on the Common series.

M. Blanchard stated that she thinks having alcohol vendors at the concerts changes the atmosphere at the event.

M. Dowling stated that the Town already has a great turn out at the concerts and she doesn't agree with having any alcohol on the Town Common.

Motion: To approve the special one day liquor license for Bay State Brewing. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: M. Suprenant

Discussion: C. Kaitbenski asked the Board if they would be willing to do a trial period of having alcohol vendors at the concert series.

M. Dowling indicated that Bay State Brewing could come back to the Board, when they have a full board, if they so wish.

C. Kaitbenski retracted his motion. M. Suprenant 2nd the retraction

Motion: To postpone one day liquor license application for Bay State Brewing until a full Board of Selectmen is available. By: M. Suprenant

Accept Resignation of Susan Kline from the Tantasqua School Committee

Motion: To accept the resignation of Susan Kline from the Tantasqua School Committee. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard stated that the Board of Selectmen will need to have a joint meeting with the School Committee regarding the opening and advertise the vacancy.

Concur with the Appointment of Andrea Mensen as the TA/BOS Administrative Assistant

M. Blanchard stated that she wished Andrea had some administrative background.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Andrea Mensen as the TA/BOS Administrative Assistant. By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Accept Donation of \$300 to the Fire Dept. Rescue Squad

Motion: To accept the donation of \$300 to the Fire Dept. Rescue Squad from the Sturbridge Lions Club. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Vote to Sign DPW Union Memorandum of Understanding

J. Bridges gave a background on the DPW MOA and changes that were made since the last vote to sign.

Motion: To sign the DPW Union Memorandum of Understanding. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Change Date of June 3rd BOS Meeting

M. Blanchard stated that since they usually have a meeting right before the Town Meeting they won't need to make another meeting date. The Board will meet at 6:30pm in the Tantasqua cafeteria on June 3, 2019 before Annual Town Meeting.

Vote to Authorize the Parking Request for Proposal

J. Bridges gave a background regarding the Parking RFP.

Motion: To authorize the Parking Request for Proposal. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Vote to Sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Motion: To sign the Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Department Head Updates

Police Department

Chief Ford came before the Board and gave the Police Department updates for March and April.

J. Bridges asked if there was a report submitted by the SRO officer at the high school.

Chief Ford stated that there wasn't but that they do track the calls for the SRO for service but going forward he could have them submit an overview of their activities.

M. Dowling inquired as to how many more hours a week the Public Safety Complex has two dispatchers on together since they added new personnel, she stated that she would like a comparison between before they had new dispatchers and currently and would like data regarding how often an emergency call couldn't be answered by Sturbridge dispatchers and had to be rerouted to a different town.

Chief Ford stated that 75% of the 1st and 2nd shifts had two dispatchers now and the 3rd shift still only had one.

Fire Department

Chief Grasso came before the Board and have his updates for March and April for the Fire Department. Chief Grasso discussed the fire that occurred on Main Street Easter morning and commended all the responders, Red Cross and the Senior Center for their help. He discussed burn permits and brush fires. The Board and Chief Grasso discussed the fire on Main Street and the status of all those who were displaced.

Chief Grasso discussed the new compressor, new ambulance, and the Junior Fire Academy.

Chief Grasso also gave a public service announcement regarding not leaving children or pets in a hot vehicle this summer.

M. Suprenant asked if the Chief could cover the Junior Fire Academy in his next report to the BOS after its completion.

Building Department

Nelson Burlingame came before the Board and gave his updates for March and April for the Building Department. He discussed ongoing commercial projects, 728 Main Street repairs on fire damage and Edwards Gas construction progress. M. Dowling and N. Burlingame discussed the heavy equipment that was at Edwards Gas and the lack of safety fencing.

N. Burlingame discussed Petro Gas, the new Escape Room, the back parking lot at Teddy G's issue with drainage, the 7 Main Street property, and the Leadmine trailer. The Board discussed clarification on building permits in N. Burlingame's report.

C. Kaitbenski inquired into the construction being done on the new building across from the truck stop. M. Blanchard brought up the yard signs that had gone up all over town and windows at businesses that were over crowded with signs.

M. Suprenant inquired into the new Panera sign.

Old Business

M. Dowling inquired into when they would be having a reception for the new Town Administrator. J. Bridges and the Board discussed.

New Business

M. Suprenant stated that he would be attending an Affordable Housing meeting on June 5th and 6th and inquired into whether the Town would pay for the meeting.

Correspondence

M. Suprenant read the correspondence.

M. Blanchard discussed a letter received from Pierce Atwood LLP, regarding the Northeast Energy Center.

The board discussed a memo received from the Fire Chief regarding surplus equipment. J. Bridges stated that there are other departments that have surplus equipment as well and will get the Board a list.

Motion: To declare the original Fire Department compressor surplus equipment and authorize to dispose of it. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard read a letter from the Department Head of Conservation regarding a violation on the Riverlands property.

Motion: Recommendation to send a letter of violation to the property owner of the Riverlands property. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 3-0-1 (M. Suprenant Abstained) (P. Gimás Absent)

Approval of Minutes

May 6, 2019

Motion: To approve the minutes from May 6, 2019 as amended. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 3-0-1 (M. Suprenant Abstained) (P. Gimás Absent)

M. Blanchard brought up an email she received from SLACK requesting a Board of Selectmen representative member. M. Dowling volunteered to be the BOS member of SLACK.

Motion: To nominate Mary Dowling to be the Board of Selectmen member of SLACK. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Citizen's Forum

The Lake Quacumquasit (South Pond) Association members Carl Nielsen and Doug Vizard came before the Board to request \$55K from the Town of Sturbridge. C. Nielsen and D. Vizard gave a background regarding Alum treatment and Phosphorous build up in lakes. They stated they already received funds from Brookfield and East Brookfield and stated they need a commitment letter from the Board to send with the application for the grant which is due June 3, 2019. They stated that the funds requested from each town is different because of the difference in population and that the rest of the money needed for the Alum treatment will be fund raised by the association but needs Sturbridge to agree to become an applicant.

M. Blanchard stated that in the petition article the association submitted there is no fund amount. J. Bridges stated that they were working with FinCom and the Association to create a substitute article with fund amounts.

M. Suprenant inquired into the bridge project and the flow barrier. C. Nielsen explained the bridge project and discussed the flow barriers.

M. Dowling stated that she supports cleaning up the lake and inquired into how they came up with the requested fund contribution amounts for each town. The association members and the board discussed contribution amounts.

M. Blanchard asked if the other towns that have sent commitment letters had already received the funds from Town Meeting. C. Nielsen stated that they will be placing articles at their Town Meetings later this year and asked if their consultant could speak at Town Meeting. M. Blanchard stated that it would be up to our Town Moderator to allow that and that J. Bridges could ask him.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:53 pm. By: C. Kaitbenski

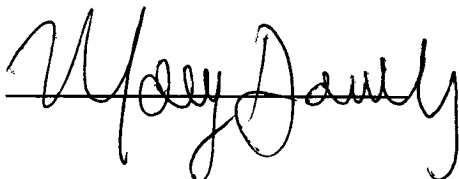
2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (P. Gimás Absent)

Adjourned at 8:53 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

