

September 16, 2019

**Board of Selectmen
September 16, 2019
Town Hall**

Amended

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Vice Chairman
Michael Suprenant, Clerk
Priscilla Gimas
Chase Kaitbenski

Staff:

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Andrea Mensen, Administrative Assistant

Executive Session: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if the chair declares than an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Motion: To Move into Executive Session and Return to Open Session By: Chair Blanchard

2nd: Selectwoman Gimas

Roll Call Vote: Chair Blanchard YES, Vice- Chair Dowling YES, Selectman Suprenant YES, Selectwoman Gimas YES, Selectman Kaitbenski YES

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:25pm

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blanchard read through the agenda

Public Service Announcements:

Chair Blanchard announced a few events including the Mass Outdoor Expo happening Sunday September 26th from 9am-4pm at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club. She stated that the state will be ariel spraying for mosquitos September 16th from 7pm-4am, and more information can be obtained on the website.

Pole Hearing- National Grid and Verizon- Haynes Street and Mashapaug Road

Selectman Suprenant read the legal ad posted in the Southbridge Evening News.

Jeff Silver, National Grid, came before board and stated where National Grid was planning to relocate their poles. He mentioned that the reason for relocation is so that the poles are closer to the road which will allow everything to work better. Selectman Suprenant asked what the standard distance off pavement is, stating that he would prefer they keep the poles at least 6 feet off pavement. Mr. Silver stated that the state regulation is 4 feet, but they could make an adjustment.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the relocation of the three poles subject to them being placed at least 6 feet from the pavement By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Public Hearing- Logging Permit-119 Holland Road and 224B Holland Road- Michael J. Bartlett

Selectman Suprenant read the legal ad posted in the Southbridge Evening News.

Michael Bartlett came before the board and explained that he is planning to do a timber harvest. He stated that the objective of this timber harvest is to salvage the trees that have died from gypsy moths. Mr. Bartlett stated that the plan is to use logging trucks to get to wet areas of the land. Selectman Suprenant asked if Mr. Bartlett would coordinate with the school buses in Town, and also the Holland school busses to confirm that there would be no conflict. Vice Chair Dowling brought up the forester rules, and stated there were permitting hours for logging permits. Mr. Bartlett stated that timing has never been mentioned in the past. Vice Chair Dowling suggested we obtain a definitive answer on the policy.

John Collette, Allen Hill Road, stated he was concerned about the lot lines, and asked where they would be cutting. Mr. Bartlett stated that the lines were matched up with the maps and all the trees they will be cutting were flagged. He stated that Mr. Collette should let him know if he had any concerns. Mr. Collette asked if the cutting would impact wetlands, and Mr. Bartlett responded saying that he would use crane mats to protect the integrity of the wetlands.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve a logging permit for 119 Holland Road and 224B Holland Road subject to the allowable logging hours and the coordination of the school buses. By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectwoman Gimas

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vice Chair Dowling suggested we make a copy of the forester policy which states the hours and provide it to Mr. Bartlett.

Department Head Updates

Town Administrator

Mr. Bridges informed the Board that Sturbridge Auto Sales bond has expired and has been revoked and if they do not provide a new one to the Town by September 17, 2019 the state will have to be notified and their bond will be void.

Mr. Bridges stated that Annie Roscioli would be the Town employee to take the lead as a dog park representative. He stated that he had received an email from the Sturbridge Rotary, saying they will have a proclamation at the

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beginning of October to send to Stourbridge, England Rotary. The Board discussed that they have been doing this for several years, and that they didn't have to wait to make a motion.

Motion: To approve the proclamation similar to what has been written in last 30 years: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Concur with the appointment of Pearl A. Lutta as a part time Dispatcher for the Sturbridge Police Department

Pearl Lutta came before the Board, and stated that she was born and raised in Kenya, she moved to the states 6 years ago, and now she attends Anna Maria College. She hopes to become a police officer, and she feels becoming a dispatcher first is a step in the right direction. Selectwoman Gimas stated she is very happy to see Ms. Lutta was selected to be a dispatcher with the Town of Sturbridge, as she had Ms. Lutta as a student in one of her classes. Selectman Suprenant stated he was impressed with her resume and encouraged Ms. Lutta to stay in the Criminal Justice field.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Pearl Lutta as a part time Dispatcher for the Sturbridge Police Department By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaithenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

The Chairman of the Criminal Justice Department at Anna Maria came forward and stated that Ms. Lutta held a 4.0 GPA and thanked the Board for giving her this opportunity.

Repair of Tennis Court at Cedar Street Recreation Area

Mr. Bridges suggested to the Board that they accept the proposal from Lynch to cover half of the tennis court repair. He stated that if the Board opted to repair the whole court that they should wait until the spring.

Motion: To accept the proposal from Lynch Construction to split the costs of repairing and resurfacing the tennis courts at the Cedar Street Recreation Area By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaithenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adoption of the update to the Town of Sturbridge national hazard mitigation plan 2019

Kevin Filchak, Emergency Management Coordinator, Thomas Ford, Police Chief, and Peter Peloquin, Associate Planner Central Mass Regional Planning Commission came before the Board. Mr. Bridges stated that the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been updated, and they are asking for the plan to be adopted by the Board. Mr. Peloquin stated that the idea behind the plan is to provide a road map to what the risk factors of a natural disaster are, and give ways to lessen the possibilities of a disaster happening. Mr. Filchak added that the process to get the plan updated was a helpful way to start discussing natural hazards. Vice Chair Dowling asked if there were any significant changes from the previous year's plans. Mr. Filchak stated that one change that came to mind was the gypsy moth issue that was added issue, but many things were continuations of the previous year's plan. The continuations included updating the supplies at shelters, and reevaluating the backup plans for certain disasters.

Motion: To adopt the updated national hazard mitigation plan By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Selectman Kaithenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Concur with the appointment of Christine Bourbeau as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works

Butch Jackson, Director of Department of Public Works, came forward and introduced Christine Bourbeau and stated that she was the best of the 31 applicants that applied. Ms. Bourbeau came before the board to introduce herself. Selectwoman Gimas stated that Ms. Bourbeau was a student she had at Baystate College. She stated that Ms. Bourbeau always went above and beyond, and she is happy to see her interest in this position and she knows she will do a fantastic job. Selectman Suprenant stated it is very rewarding knowing the Department of Public Works is trying to make the community better.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Christine Bourbeau as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works at \$19.64 effective 9/30/19 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Old business

Chair Blanchard asked for the latest update from the DEP on McGilpin Road. Mr. Bridges stated he would have to look into it.

Chair Blanchard asked Mr. Bridges if he had a chance to reach out to Charter about a senior discount. Mr. Bridges stated that he had talked to Charter and there is a senior discount, but it only pertains to certain things. Mr. Bridges informed the Board he is waiting for the representative to get back to him with more details.

Sewer Extension Proposal for Route 15, Pine Lake RV Park

Mr. Bridges explained to the Board what Philip Moreau, owner of Pine Lake Cottages & RV Resort, was proposing. Mr. Moreau's proposal is to construct a six (6) inch public main down Route 15 which would allow the RV Park to connect to the public sewer at River Road. This would require a pump station on the RV Park Property. Other users along the way can also connect with their own pump. The estimated costs from Tighe and Bond to build the sewer line along Rt. 15 is \$2,433,860. This line would be designed and constructed by the owners of the RV Resort with approval of the plans by the Town and inspection of the work by the Town. The line will be dedicated to the Town once completed and inspected. A formal contract would be developed between the Town and the owner of the Resort to clearly articulate roles and responsibilities on the project.

Selectwoman Gimas thanked Mr. Moreau for coming to the Town with his generous offer, and she stated that it opens up the door for other business opportunities along Route 15, such as the possibility of a new Senior Center. Selectman Kaitbenski thanked Mr. Moreau stating he has done a lot for the Town and it's appreciated. Selectman Kaitbenski stated that he believes there should be some kind of connection fee that the RV Park would be responsible for. Selectman Suprenant stated that the Board had recently said no to waive sewer fees for a project, so it would not be fair to say they could waive the fees in this circumstance. Vice Chair Dowling stated that she had an opportunity to tour the RV Park and she was very impressed and stated that it's an asset to Sturbridge. She stated that if the sewer line is going to be owned by the Town she would prefer the Town to be in charge of building it. This would entail the Town choosing the contractor, since the repairs in the future would be the Town's responsibility. Vice Chair Dowling mentioned she agrees they would need to be consistent when it comes to tie in fees. She asked Mr. Moreau how it would benefit him to extend sewer down Route 15 as opposed to tying into Farquhar Road. Mr. Moreau stated that given all his options he would like to go with Route 15 so he is able to give back to the community. He stated he knows this will benefit the Town, and give the Town the control of what the future holds for Route 15. Mr. Moreau stated that he does not want to be involved in the sewer business,

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he would just like his business to run smoothly. Mr. Moreau explained that they have completely rehabilitated the old campground and went over all of the renovations that he has done so far.

Mr. Moreau stated that he understood the Board's concern of being fair, but wondered if the other projects that had requested sewer fees to be waived were turning around an area as radically as he is. Vice Chair Dowling stated that the Board should not favor his offer over another offer just because he is a bigger operation. Vice Chair Dowling asked how this project would benefit Route 15 and how many other private owners would be able to use the sewer. Mr. Bridges stated that there may only be a couple properties, but taking Mr. Moreau out of the mix, would most likely eliminate the possibility of having sewer down Route 15 in the future. Chair Blanchard said she is not in favor of waiving any fees, she was not aware if the Board had the authority to waive fees, and she agrees that not one project is better than the other based on size. Selectwoman Gimás stated she was not sure of the other projects, and she wondered if the other projects were giving as much to the Town as Mr. Moreau was willing to give. Vice Chair Dowling would like more guidance from Town Counsel on what the contract would look like, and she would like to know their experience with this type of situation.

No motion was made. Discussion tabled until next meeting on October 7, 2019.

New Business

Selectman Kaitbenski stated that he heard from an upset resident about the gravel project involving large trucks on New Boston Road. Mr. Bridges stated that the people conducting the project had pulled the necessary permits, and everything going on is legal. He stated that a lot of material is being moved from there, and the plan is to eventually build a house.

Correspondence

Selectman Suprenant read the correspondence.

September 3, 2019	Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program Details of the Grant Program
September 9, 2019	Rotary Club Annual Greetings
September 10, 2019	Charter Communications Upcoming Changes

Approval of Minutes

September 3, 2019

Motion: To Approve the Minutes for September 3, 2019 as Amended By: Selectman Suprenant
2nd: Selectwoman Gimás
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

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September 9, 2019

Motion: To Approve the Minutes for September 9, 2019 as Amended By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Chair Blanchard

Vote: 4-1 (Selectman Kaitbenski abstained)

Adjourn

Motion: To Adjourn at 8:23 pm By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:23 pm

Minutes prepared by: Andrea Mensen

Clerk of the Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Suprenant", written over a horizontal line.

Date signed:

10-23-2019