

October 23, 2019

**Board of Selectmen  
October 23, 2019  
Town Hall**

Amended

**Present:**

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

**Staff:**

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator  
Samantha Evans, Administrative Assistant

**Executive Session:**

- A. 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: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**

**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 6:30pm**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Chair Blanchard read through the agenda**

**Public Service Announcements:**

Chair Blanchard announced the cancellation of the Sturbridge Community Bonfire on October 24<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Horribles Parade on October 31<sup>st</sup>. These events are canceled because of the EEE high risk category. Trick-or-treating is at your own discretion on private land, only public land is restricted.

**Department Head Updates**

**Facilities**

Facilities Coordinator Robyn Chrabasz came before the Board to explain that the Department has been focusing on fall maintenance and includes the elevators and heating systems in the town buildings. Interviews have occurred for a custodian position and an offer has been made to an applicant. The Department is also focused on working on capital projects. The DPW roof for the office area has been completed in the last 2 months. Facilities has been assisting Director Becky Plimpton at the Joshua Hyde Public Library with preparations for the library renovation. Some of this help entailed dealing with furniture and the moving of objects. For the Recreation Department there is

an Invitation to Bid for the Little League Field Lighting Project. Bids will be opened on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Green Communities project consisted of total LED lighting for four town buildings. The Town Hall, Center Office, Joshua Hyde Library, and Public Works (DPW) should be complete in the next couple of weeks. They also completed a weatherization project at the Public Safety Complex.

### **Water and Sewer**

Water Division Manager Shane Moody came before the Board with the submitted operation reports for the months of August and September. Selectman Suprenant requested information on the percentage of out of town septage and how the town is doing with Zinc. The answer provided was that the majority of septage is coming from out of town and they are making the Zinc permit limit. Selectman Suprenant contributed that if we can stabilize some of the cost with out of town septage in the process then it is less cost to our rate payers. In September PFAS testing was done on the water system and the department received the results. Two rounds of testing were done on wells 1, 3, & 5, and one round of testing was completed on the well 4. There was a small hit on the first round on one of the wells but it was way under the MCL and the proposed MCL right now is 80 parts per trillion. On the second round of testing there were no hits at all. The results came from DEP and they reached out to see if there would be any more testing required. The answer was only non-voluntary testing. They will not be doing any further testing. The new sample schedule to come out will be next year and the department will wait and see if they are required to do more. Other testing that took place was EPA UCMR4 testing. EPA reported three results and they were under the limits. The Department just finished taking samples this week and will give an update in the summer if they passed everything or not. A round of water readings was completed and bills were sent out. Flushing was completed on the west side of town and the east side will be finished in the next few weeks. Winterizing public fire hydrants was done on the west side of town. Chair Blanchard requested information on the hydrant situation, whether they are all working. Water Division Manager Shane Moody relayed that two were fixed and only one is out of service at the moment. Chair Blanchard also requested to know if the department had gotten any calls about discoloration of water because of the flushing. Water Division Manager Shane Moody explained that there have been no complaints.

### **Department of Public Works**

Department of Public Works Director Butch Jackson came before the board with information on the months of August and September. Selectman Suprenant commented on the amount of professional development in the months of August and September. There were zero man days in August and in the month of September 2 man days. Selectman Suprenant relayed that public works is an area that has a lot changing. Selectman Suprenant encouraged that the employees be trained and get there professional development in. Director Jackson confirmed that the board will see information on this topic in the next report. The entire crew went to the snow and ice school, 12 of them in total. The school was hosted in Sturbridge and other towns were present. There are 6 people scheduled for the truck calibration class in early November. Selectman Suprenant stated that calibrating the spreaders can save the town a lot of money. Another project Butch spoke on was beaver situations. DPW knocked one of the dams down a foot on Cooper Road and another one was encroaching on a road nearby that was dealt with. Paving is now finished on Farquhar Road there are a few driveways the department will go back and match. They only went down to Blueberry Lane because there were drainage issues past that. Vice-Chair Dowling asked if they had dug up the rest of Farquhar and inquired whether it was in good shape for the upcoming road race. The answer was no they did not. Mr. Jackson assured the board that Farquhar road was ready for the race. Selectwoman Gimás thanked Director Jackson for putting updates on Facebook. Director Jackson was leery about posting on Facebook but he stated that it went well. Selectwoman Gimás pointed out that it had never been done before and shared that she would like a Sturbridge Facebook Page. Town Administrator Bridges shared that there was an unofficial Facebook page that the town took over and it will be updated. Vice-Chair Dowling informed everyone that when information is on the Facebook page it could or could not be accurate because the Town did not put up the page.

### **Town Administrators report**

Town Administrator Bridges came before the Board and presented the memo from the schools about their upcoming budget process and that they are seeking a liaison. Chair Blanchard stated that the Board reviews the schools budgets in January. Town Administrator Bridges also shared that a couple of the members on the Board of Selectmen will be going on a tour of the 253 facility October 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Trick-or-treating is being left to the public individually. There will be a Home of the Brave 5K on November 16, 2019 at 9:00am which anyone can register online for. Vice-Chair Dowling explained further that if anyone want to get a T-shirt they needed to register by Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>. Those who would like to register are only guaranteed a t-shirt if they register online by October 25<sup>th</sup>. The t-shirts cost \$20 dollars and on the day of the event they cost \$25. Town Administrator Bridges talked about the library renovation open house that is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be held to show the results of the renovation and the event will be published in the media.

**Citation and Recognition of Son Vo of Kaizen Sushi Bar and Grill as a 2019 Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Award Nominee**

Chair Blanchard explained that Son Vo had been nominated by the Immigrant Learning Center for the 2019 Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Award. There is a reception in Cambridge Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm if anyone is interested in going.

**Motion: To sign the citation By: Selectman Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectwoman Gimas**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Appointment of Richard Paradise to the Sturbridge Trails Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2022**

Chair Blanchard informed the Board that Richard Paradise is a current associate member. Then requested how many associates and how many regular members Sturbridge has. Town Administrator Bridges replied that he will look up and get the information. There is no bylaw that creates the Trails Committee it is accomplished by motions by the Board of Selectmen. Town Administrator Bridges wanted to inform the Board that there is an Associate member and a Voting member position. They did have a voting member vacancy out of the five voting members.

**Motion: To concur with the appointment of Richard Paradise as a full voting member of the Sturbridge Trails Committee with the term expiring June 30, 2022 By: Selectman Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Acceptance of a \$2,000 donation from Country Bank to the Sturbridge Senior Center**

Chair Blanchard read the letter that was addressed to the Senior Center from Country Bank about the donation provided.

**Motion: To accept \$2,000 donation from Country Bank for the Sturbridge Senior Center. By: Selectman Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Sturbridge Metallurgical – Request for Tax Increment Financing**

Town Administrator Bridges addressed the Board stating that at the last meeting the Board accepted a letter of intent to issue tax abatements. The owner has asked for an extension they are still working on the pricing. The owner is asking to postpone until the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Selectman Suprenant asked for the consensus of the board to ask Town Administrator Bridges to convey the Boards continuing support of this project.

**Motion: To continue to let Sturbridge Metallurgical know we continue to support them By: Selectman Suprenant**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Kaitbenski**  
**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

#### **Conservation Commission – enforcement proceeding for 27 Ladd Road**

Conservation Agent Rebecca Gendreau addressed the board stating the Sturbridge Conservation Commission issued an Enforcement Order in June. They were first notified of this violation in May. In early May a Bobcat was observed with a hydraulic hammer, it was heard from an adjacent property. The Conservation Commission received a report and contacted 508 International. A site visit was set up with the Chair of Conservation Commission. They observed a new bridge and trails within a wetland and within the buffer zone. The representatives from 508 International had said they didn't believe they were working in Sturbridge. Mass GIS layers the assessors mapped the property and showed it was Sturbridge. 508 International had a plan that said otherwise and were given time to present said plan. They arrived at a meeting in May where they asked for more time to present their plan but did not return to the scheduled June meeting. The Sturbridge Conservation Commission issued an enforcement order for violations in June with a 60 day appeal period allowed. No appeal was given. 508 International appeared and stated that they were not in violation because the bridge was existing and they only did repairs. They asked for more time to submit a request for determination for applicability filing which the commission agreed to. They did not submit in the time frame discussed. The Sturbridge Conservation Commission went to town counsel to discuss the next steps to move forward. A letter was sent stating that the appeal period was ending for the Enforcement Order. No response was made by 508 International and now the Conservation Commission is working with town counsel to move forward. Selectman Suprenant asked if the course of action was for civil violation or enforcements under the Wetlands Act. Agent Rebecca stated that it is for enforcement under the Wetlands Protection Act in local bylaw entailing that it is civil.

**Motion: For the Board of Selectmen to give their support in pursuing this matter. By: Vice-Chair Dowling**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**  
**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

#### **Old Business**

Selectwoman Gimás requested information on when the Board will find locations for the marijuana shops. Town Administrator Bridges responded that he has draft host community agreements for all three facilities. He got them from the attorney last week. The next step in the process is to get comments back to the attorney, clean them up, send them to the three proposed vendors, then complete face to face negotiations. It is scheduled that in November the board will have three host community agreements to review.

#### **New Business**

Selectwoman Gimás explained that a question was asked of her and she did not have an answer. She requested information on the capability of the Board posting the listing of school committee meetings on the Town Website. Town Administrator Bridges replied that it is possible but there can be complications. If the school committee changes a meeting and doesn't let the Town Staff know there will be incorrect information posted. Selectwoman Gimás replied that it is rare when they change or alter the meetings. Chair Blanchard asked if the Board could run

October 23, 2019

the memo that the school committee sends to their committee members. Town Administrator Bridges confirmed that was possible. Selectman Suprenant asked if the standard meetings could be posted with a link to the school committee's calendar. Town Administrator Bridges replied that he will see what he can do.

### **Correspondence**

Selectman Suprenant relayed that there was no correspondence in the packet. Chair Blanchard shared that she had an Erdos & Morgan Market Media research survey. The survey was handed to Town Administrator Bridges to fill out. Chair Blanchard also shared about a certificate from the Rotary Club of Sturbridge. Chair Blanchard covered information about the Rotary Clubs joint celebrations.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of October 7, 2019 pulled and on hold for maintenance.

### **Citizen's Forum**

### **Adjourn**

**Motion: To Adjourn at 7:11 pm By: Selectwoman Gimas**

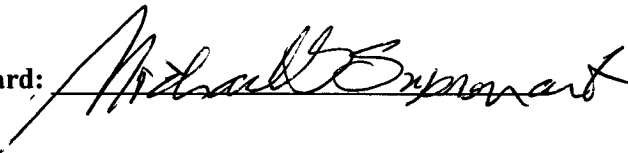
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Kaitbenski**

**Vote: All in Favor (5-0)**

**Adjourned at 7:11 pm**

**Minutes prepared by: Samantha Evans**

Clerk of the Board:

 Date signed: 11-18-2019