

October 7, 2019

**Board of Selectmen
October 7, 2019
Town Hall**

Amended

Present:

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

Staff:

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Andrea Mensen, Administrative Assistant

Executive Session:

- A. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if the chair declares that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
- B. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position, and the Chair so declares.

Motion: To Move into Executive Session and Return to Open Session By: Selectman Gimás

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Roll Call Vote: Chair Blanchard YES, Vice- Chair Dowling YES, Selectman Suprenant YES, Selectman Gimás 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 New York City bus trip happening on December 14th, the Sturbridge bonfire on the common is postponed until October 24th, pending the EEE threat. She also mentioned that Trick or Treating will be based on the threat of EEE.

Public Hearing- Liquor License-Sawdust Coffee- 371 Main Street- Peter Champagne

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

Peter Champagne, owner of Sawdust Coffee, and Jim Gerrish, Mr. Champagne's lawyer, came before the board. Mr. Gerrish explained that Mr. Champagne is opening a dessert bar, where people will be able to go after dinner and listen to music, have some dessert, and pair it with a drink. Mr. Champagne stated he is the owner and the manager, and he will be TIP certified, along with all his staff members.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Vice- Chair Dowling
2nd: Selectman Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To grant a common victualler license and a full liquor license to Peter Champagne, Sawdust Coffee Inc. By: Selectman Kaitbenski
2nd: Selectman Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Chair Blanchard asked when Mr. Champagne was hoping to open his restaurant. Mr. Champagne stated that he hopes to open at the end of November.

Public Hearing- Transfer of Liquor License-Fred's Variety- 25 Brookfield Road- Ian Hedges

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

Jayantibhai Patel, Manager of Fred's Variety, and Ian Hedges, Mr. Patel's attorney, came before the board stating that Mr. Patel will now be the proposed manager for Fred's Variety. Mr. Hedges mentioned that Mr. Patel is TIP certified.

Selectman Suprenant asked if Mr. Patel had any violations against him at the other store that he managed. Mr. Hedges stated that Mr. Patel had no violations against him at the store he managed in Shirley, MA.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the transfer of license for Fred's Variety to Jayantibhai Patel By: Selectman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Public Hearing- Logging Permit-177 Podunk Road- Scott Gerrish

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

Scott Gerrish, forester, and Thomas Buell, property representative, came before the Board and explained that they are planning to do a light cutting to manage the land, while trying to develop a healthy species and create diversity throughout the forest.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the Logging Permit for 177 Podunk Road By: Selectman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vice- Chair Dowling mentioned the terms and conditions that foresters must abide by when conducting a cutting plan.

Public Hearing- Logging Permit-176 Podunk Road- Scott Gerrish

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

Scott Gerrish, forester, and Thomas Buell, landowner, came before the Board and explained that this is the same type of harvest as the one they are doing at 177 Podunk Road. Mr. Gerrish stated that this address has a little more ash and they are trying to be proactive about the Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Gerrish mentioned that he will be monitoring the site and if there are any issues with the trucks and the driveway, they would come up with alternatives. Mr. Gerrish and Mr. Buell stated that they are doing both 176 and 177 Podunk Road locations at the same time.

Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To approve the Logging Permit for 176 Podunk Road, subject to the conditions in the general bylaws section 3.34 By: Vice- Chair Dowling

2nd: Selectman Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Joint Meeting with the Tantasqua School Committee

Tantasqua School Committee members introduced themselves. Chair Blanchard read Mr. Ted Goodwin's letter of interest.

Selectman Gimas asked what he sees as his role on the school committee in any community. Ted Goodwin said it is being efficient resources to do their best for their children and the whole community. Keeping the school community strong is educating children. There are budget matters, facility matters, the role is being well informed and making level headed decisions with students and the town.

Chair Blanchard asked Mr. Goodwin what motivated him to be considered and take on the position. He said he was reached out to, he wasn't aware of the position. He sees a need to step in and serve. He has interest in being involved in the schools, he felt like it was time and the opportunity had presented itself. School Committee Member Patricia Barnicle wondered if he considered the next election period and if he would be willing to run. Ted Goodwin said he would be definitely willing to run and it's a decision of the time. Vice-Chair Dowling says he has been very committed to the town for a long time, she is excited for him to fill the position.

Selectman Suprenant thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Selectman Kaitbenski thanked Ted Goodwin for stepping up.

Motion: School Committee Member Vice-Chair William Haggerty made a motion to appoint Ted Goodwin to Tantasqua School Committee until the term ends in 2020

2nd: Vice- Chair Dowling

Vote: All in Favor (10-0)

Special One Day Liquor License, Brimfield Winery, Sturbridge Bonfire, Kate Corriveau

Kate Corriveau, Brimfield Winery, came before the Board. Mr. Bridges asked the Board if Brimfield Winery was approved for the license would they also be approved for a postponed date if the event needed to be changed.

Motion: To approve the Special One Day Liquor License for Brimfield Winery for the October 24th Bonfire on the Common, or a different date if it needs to be postponed, from 4pm-8pm By: Selectman Suprenant
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: (4-0-1) (Vice- Chair Dowling abstained)

Special One Day Liquor License, Baystate Brewing Company, Sturbridge Bonfire, Shawn Rich

Motion: To approve the Special One Day Liquor License for Bay State Brewing Company for the October 24th Bonfire on the Common, or a different date if it needs to be postponed, from 4pm-8pm By: Selectman Suprenant
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: (4-0-1) (Vice- Chair Dowling abstained)

Special One day Liquor License, Brimfield Winery, Center of Hope Annual Wine Tasting, Kate Corriveau

Special One Day Liquor License, Agronomy Farm Vineyard, Center of Hope Annual Wine Tasting, Marissa O'Connor

Special One Day Liquor License, Ragged Hill Cider Company, Center of Hope Annual Wine Tasting, Anne Garwood- Hampp

Special One Day Liquor License, Hardwick Winery, Center of Hope Annual Wine Tasting, John Samek

Special One day Liquor License, Altruist Brewing Company, Center of Hope Annual Wine Tasting, Nancy Bixby

Kayla Krause, Center of Hope, came before the Board to represent all five companies that are planning to be vendors at her Center of Hope event. She explained that the event is to raise money for the Center of Hope holiday giving.

Motion: To approve a special one day liquor license for all five vendors for the Center of Hope event held at The Barn at Wight Farm on October 24th By: Selectman Suprenant
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Special One Day Liquor License, Hardwick Winery, Harvest Festival, John Samek

Motion: To approve a special one day liquor license for Hardwick Winery for the Harvest Festival on the Town Common on October 19th from 10am-5pm and October 20th from 11am-4pm By: Selectman Suprenant
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: (4-0-1) (Vice- Chair Dowling abstained)

Department Head Updates

Police Department

Thomas Ford, Police Chief, came before the Board with the Police Department's reports for July and August. Chief Ford stated that operations and training were standard in July. Mr. Bridges asked about why the calls for service were down approximately 3,000 calls. Mr. Ford stated that it could be a combination of many different things and he would have to look into it further to provide an exact answer.

Chief Ford stated that the August report showed things such as the successful events that went on throughout the summer, like the Pan Mass Challenge. He thanked all of the people who augmented the safety plan for the events. He also spoke about National Night Out and mentioned that it continues to grow each year, and it's taken on new life since being held on the Common, and since inviting more vendors. Chief Ford stated that the cookout held at the Public Safety Complex for the friends of the Senior Center was also a success. Chief Ford explained that training at the Police Department was standard during this time. Vice- Chair Dowling asked for the status on the Chiefs from other districts getting together to discuss developing a program for the schools. Chief Ford stated that they have gotten together many times and they are in process of developing a program which interacts them with the students and they are insuring that all students be provided the same program from similar teachers. He mentioned that the schools have been assisting them with funds for this program and training. Chief Ford stated the next training for this program would be in mid-November. He stated that his vision is to have a great school resource team that can assist with all schools in the district, so that the program can be consistent from grade school up through high school.

Town Administrator

Mr. Bridges updated the Board on the Sturbridge Auto Sales bond, stating that since having an expired bond they have now posted a new bond.

Mr. Bridges mentioned that he will be at the ICMA Conference and not able to attend the Board meeting on October 21, 2019. The Board discussed and decided to change the meeting to Wednesday October 23rd at 6:30pm.

Mr. Bridges updated the Board that he had talked to the Charter Communications representative about a residents concerns about cable costs. He stated that the representative said the resident can bring their senior qualifications to a Charter retail center to see about qualifications for a discount.

He mentioned that the housing needs survey will be open from October 11th through November 1st and the link will be posted on the access channel as well as the website. Selectman Suprenant wondered if there would be a place for people who do not have a computer to take the survey. Mr. Bridges stated that he would find out.

Boston Post Cane Proclamation, Cecile Hewitt

Chair Blanchard read the proclamation.

Motion: To grant the Boston Post Cane Award to Cecile Hewitt By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Concur with the appointment of Trevor Bresse as a full-time dispatcher for the Sturbridge Police Department

Chief Ford came before the Board and introduced Trevor Bresse. He stated that Mr. Bresse is a graduate of Tantasqua and was an intern at the police station while he was in high school. Chief Ford asked the Board if they would appoint Mr. Bresse effective today because of the state 911 grants deadline. He would like this grant for a class in school.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Trevor Bresse as a full-time dispatcher for the Sturbridge Police Department effective October 7, 2019 By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Accept resignation from Rachel Jalbert as the Program Assistant at the Senior Center.

Motion: To accept resignation from Rachel Jalbert as the Program Assistant at the Senior Center By: Vice-Chair Dowling
2nd: Selectman Suprenant
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Request for permission to have 4 Apple Hill Road reserve for Sewer and Water transferred to 11 McGilpin for sewer connection.

Property owner Peter Iott and his attorney came before the Board. Mr. Iott says he purchased 11 McGilpin Road and is requesting to tie in to water and sewer from 4 Apple Hill Road. He stated that his house now at 4 Apple Hill has a tie in available from that property. Chair Blanchard asked if it has two water lines and two sewer lines. Mr. Iott said there are two, one is to 4 Apple Hill Road and the other is open. Chair Blanchard said if there were two lots that were combined into one lot in her mind one line would be relinquished. Chair Blanchard would like more information, the premise here is that it has been done before so it should be done again. The attorney mentioned he doesn't see how it affects the Iotts'. He stated there could have been two houses on the lots. Chair Blanchard stated that there were two lots and one home so there should be one tie in.

Vice-Chair Dowling mentioned that she couldn't find anything in the sewer bylaws language that gave the property owner the right to assign a hookup to a property under these circumstances. Mr. Iott says he owns the property, and he isn't doing anything extreme. Public Works Director Butch Jackson came before the board and mentioned the tie into Whittemore Road is not the same circumstance.

Chair Blanchard mentioned that there are already two similar conditions at McGilpin Road at 41 and 49. Selectman Kaitbenski asked Mr. Iott if he is going to grant an easement, who will maintain it. Mr. Iott said he will and whoever were to buy his house will have to maintain it. The attorney explained easement.

Selectman Kaitbenski said he doesn't have a problem, but agrees that it is a little weird. He would have a hard time saying no when it's been done before in that area.

Selectman Gimás said she was at the conservation meeting and she knows what he has been through and what he has done to make it work.

Town Administrator Bridges asked if the line in the easement is owned by the owner or owned by the town. The attorney said Chapter 183 of Town Bylaws permits hookup. He said the line in the easement would be owned by McGilpin Road owners.

DPW Director Jackson stated his concerns. If the Department of Public Works drives on his land they would be responsible for cleanup.

Selectman Suprenant asked about privilege fee. Chair Blanchard stated it would be the same at \$7,500.

Vice-Chair Dowling stated that she does not believe the sewer bylaws allow such assignment to a neighborhood without approval at town meeting. She would like to see McGilpin Road get water and sewer services.

Vice-Chair Dowling stated that if water and sewer service were provided on McGilpin Road this lot would have to pay betterments.

Motion: To approve the request for 11 McGilpin road By: Selectman Gimás
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: (3-1-1) (Vice-Chair Dowling abstained, Chair Blanchard opposed)

Rescind the appointment of Christine Bourbeau as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works and concur with the appointment of April Denault as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works

Motion: To rescind the appointment of Christine Bourbeau as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Butch Jackson, Department of Public Works Director, came before the Board and introduced April Denault. He stated that April is going to be a great addition to his staff.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of April Denault as the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Public Works By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Accept resignation from Dawn Toon as the backup Health Agent for the Town of Sturbridge

Motion: To accept the resignation of Dawn Toon as the backup Health Agent for the Town of Sturbridge By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Letter of Interest in tax increment financing: Sturbridge Metallurgical, 8 Picker Road

Kevin Filchak, Economic and Tourism Coordinator, came before the Board and stated that he and Mr. Bridges had received a letter of intent from Sturbridge Metallurgical to apply for local and state tax incentive support for a proposed expansion of their site at 8 Picker Road. Mr. Filchak suggested that the Board accept the letter and appoint a member of their Board to review the application and serve on the Local Incentive Review Committee for Sturbridge Metallurgical tax incentive application. Mr. Bridges mentioned that they had a chance to tour the new site at Picker Road and said it was amazing.

Motion: To accept the letter of interest in tax increment financing for Sturbridge Metallurgical By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Motion: To appoint Pricilla Gimas as the member of the Board of Selectmen to be on the Local Incentive Review Committee By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Approval of contract with McClure Engineering for engineering services for the improvements to the Fiske Hill pump station

Mr. Bridges explained that the Fiske Hill water pump station got approved at the Annual Town Meeting for \$850,000 to be engineered by McClure Engineering. Since the Annual Town meeting McClure Engineering has revised the estimate of the project to \$1,051,000. Mr. Bridges stated that there is money for final design and bidding. Once bid they will know if more money is necessary. He suggested that the Board move forward with McClure Engineering for this project. Selectman Suprenant asked what the increases would be going towards. Mr. Jackson stated the increased price is for things that may happen during the project. He stated that he met with McClure Engineering and he is fairly confident that the price of \$850,000 would stand, but they wanted to be sure if they needed more funds they would be available.

Motion: Approve the contract with McClure Engineering for design, bidding, and construction inspections services for improvements to the Fiske Hill Water Pump Station. By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Suprenant

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Concur with the appointment of Victor Pollock, 42 Wells Park Road, Sturbridge, as a representative of Walker Pond, on the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Victor Pollock, as a representative of Walker Pond, to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Codification of general bylaws- Form of re adoption

Mr. Bridges explained to the Board that at the Annual Town Meeting there were funds appropriated to codify the Town's General Bylaws, Zoning Bylaws, and other regulations. He stated that General Code Publishers are performing the work. He suggested to the Board that rather than let Code Publishers take them as they are, that they let them make changes and have them presented at Town Meeting for approval.

He asked the Board if they want Code Publishers to take them as they are, or do they want Code Publishers who will scrub the errors. His recommendation is to let them scrub the error but then those changes would have to go to town meeting for approval.

Motion: To have Code Publisher correct any errors as part of the Bylaw Codification Project By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Appoint Roxann Smith to the Sturbridge Cultural Council for a three year term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022

Roxann Smith came before the Board and says she is interested in seeing different cultural aspects happening in Sturbridge.

Motion: To concur with her appointment By: Selectman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Old Business

Vice-Chair Dowling asked about the contractor who will review different classifications for jobs. Town Administrator Bridges said six companies were sent the request for quote. The deadline for response is this Friday.

Vice-Chair Dowling asked about KP Law putting in writing if they would have to go to town meeting for sewer extension. Town Administrator Bridges stated that they had not yet. Vice-Chair Dowling said that there were concerns from the Board about the proposed sewer line down Route 15 and she wondered why the RV Park Developer changed his mind. Mr. Bridges stated that the RV Park owner felt staying with his current plan of building his own plant was in his best interests and would allow him to open the park in the spring.

October 7, 2019

New Business

None

Correspondence

Selectman Suprenant read the correspondence.
Town Administrator Bridges read the rate increase notice from National Grid.

Approval of Minutes

September 16, 2019

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

Citizen's Forum

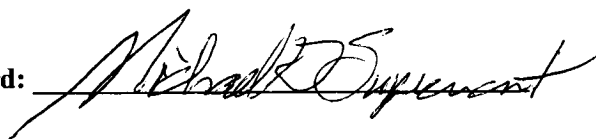
Adjourn

Motion: To Adjourn at 8:34 pm By: Selectman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:34 pm

Minutes prepared by: Andrea Mensen

Minutes revised by: Samantha Evans

Clerk of the Board:  **Date signed:** 12-04-2019