

February 18, 2020

**Board of Selectmen
February 18, 2020
Town Hall**

AMENDED

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Mary Dowling, Vice Chairman
Priscilla Gimas
Chase Kaitbenski

Absent:

Michael Suprenant, Clerk

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 that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

**Motion: To move into Executive session so declared by Chair Blanchard
2nd: Selectwoman Gimas**

Roll Call to Vote: Chair Blanchard YES, Vice Chair Dowling YES, Selectwoman Gimas YES, Selectman Kaitbenski YES. (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

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

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blanchard read through the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

Chair Blanchard mentioned the Community Housing Forum and reminded everyone about early voting that will take place February 21- 24 during regular Town Hall hours.

Transfer of liquor license, Lee Palmer, Hemlock Ridge Golf Course

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Motion: To approve the transfer of liquor license at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course to Lee Palmer By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Department Head Updates:

Water and Sewer Department

Shane Moody, Veolia Water, came before the Board. Selectwoman Gimas asked if the schools were being tested for lead and copper. Mr. Moody stated that they will be testing the whole town in August/September. Mr. Moody mentioned that camera work had been done for the inflation sewer system issues, informing the Board that they didn't find too many problems, but they are looking at the rainfall and the flow to see if the two coincide. Once he has the report back he will submit it to the Board. He stated that the Stallion Hill tank will be taken offline, they will perform a full inspection to see if it can be repaired or see if it makes sense to replace it. Mr. Moody listed many different reports he had been working on. He stated that all public hydrants that they are responsible for are all working. Mr. Bridges asked about the Fiske Hill pump station and its status, and Mr. Moody stated that the bids are out right now and they are moving forward.

Building Department

Nelson Burlingame, Building Commissioner, before the Board and he went over residential and commercial permits. He informed the Board of commercial projects that may be coming to Sturbridge in the near future. Mr. Burlingame spoke about the Accella permitting system that they had been trained on, and a training he attended for lithium batteries. Selectwoman Gimas asked for the opening date of the Pine Lake Resort, and he responded that he wasn't positive but it could be the spring.

Town Administrator

Mr. Bridges notified the Board of potential date of March 21st for the budget meeting involving the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. He informed the Board that they have a new National Grid representative, and he went over the current Town website and how scrolling pictures will be implemented to see if the Board would like that better. Mr. Bridges provided the Board with a spread sheet showing snow and ice expenses. He also announced restaurant week in Sturbridge.

Accept resignation of Thomas Ford as Chief of Police of the Sturbridge Police Department effective May 12, 2020

Motion: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Thomas Ford as Chief of Police to the Sturbridge Police Department effective May 12, 2020 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

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Selectwoman Gimas, Selectman Kaitbenski, Vice Chair Dowling, and Chair Blanchard individually thanked Chief Ford for his many years of service, stating that his shoes will be very hard to fill.

Chief Ford came before the board stating that this had been a very hard decision and it comes with much emotion. He thanked the members of the board for everything they and the community has done for him and stated that he has a lot of faith that the public safety officials will continue to do a great job.

Concur with the appointment of James Kodzis as a police officer for the Sturbridge Police Department

Chief Ford came before the Board and introduced James Kodzis, stating that Sturbridge is fortunate to have him. He stated that Mr. Kodzis had served with honor as a member of the Connecticut State Police. He went over his experience with a canine dog, his education, and his work history. He stated that Mr. Kodzis had passed the physical, drug, and psychological exam. Mr. Bridges mentioned that he had met Mr. Kodzis and he whole heartedly believes he is a great fit for Sturbridge.

Motion: Concur with the appointment of James Kodzis as a Police Officer with the Town of Sturbridge Police Department effective immediately at a starting wage of \$32.95 per hour

By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Concur with the appointment of Dane LaBonte to the Planning Board effective February 26, 2020 ending June 30, 2022

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Dane LaBonte to the Planning Board effective February 26, 2020 with a term expiring June 30, 2022. By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Concur with the appointment of Walter Hersee to the Housing Partnership for a term lasting from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022

Walter Hersee came before the Board and thanked Mr. Bridges for the opportunity for this appointment and stated he hoped the Board will concur.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Walter Hersee to the Housing Partnership with a term to expire June 30, 2022 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Concur with the appointment of Leslie Wong to the Tax Assistance for Low Income Senior and Disabled Citizens committee for a life term

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Leslie Wong to the Tax Assistance for Low Income Senior and Disabled Citizen Committee for a life term By: Selectwoman Gimas

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2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Accept resignation of Tyler Bresse as a dispatcher of the Sturbridge Police Department

Motion: Accept the resignation of Tyler Bresse as a part time dispatcher for the Town of Sturbridge By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Accept resignation of James Cunniff from the Planning Board and the Betterment Committee effective February 26, 2020

Motion: To accept, with regret the resignation of James Cunniff from the Planning Board and Betterment Committee effective February 26, 2020 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Selectwoman Gimas said this was a tough resignation to accept, and she thanked James Cunniff for all his years of service. Selectman Kaitbenski, Vice Chair Dowling, and Chair Blanchard all agreed and extended their thanks to James Cunniff.

Concur with the appointment of Sara Terwilliger to the Personnel Committee for a term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022

Sara Terwilliger came before the Board and introduced herself stating that she moved to Sturbridge about two years ago. She informed the Board of her career experience and stated that she is interested in serving on the personnel committee.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Sara Terwilliger to the personnel committee for a term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Approval of a tax increment finance, Economic development incentive agreement with New England Cold Inc.

Kevin Filchak, Economic Development Coordinator, came before the Board providing them with the Tax Increment Finance and stated that it is the standard TIF, and the only difference is the number of years. This TIF is ten years. He stated that New England Cold agreed to tie into the Town's sewer and promised to provide 18 jobs.

Motion: To support the draft Tax Increment Financing agreement with New England Cold Storage, LLC as negotiated by the Town's Local Incentive Review Committee, to authorize staff to advocate for the agreement to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC), and to place this agreement as a warrant article on the Annual Town Meeting on

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1 June, 2020 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Accept Cornerstone Bank's donation for the costs of the Sturbridge Business Breakfast on March 3, 2020

Motion: Accept Cornerstone Bank's donation to cover the costs of the Sturbridge Business Breakfast on 3 March 2020 and to send a thank you letter to the Bank for said donation By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Vote to sign the 2020 seasonal population increase estimation form

The Board discussed that the number needs to be higher based on all the transit traffic and people staying for vacation.

Motion: To sign the 2020 seasonal population increase form to reflect 20,000 people total By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Approval of 2020 observed holidays

Mr. Bridges stated that the reasoning for bringing the request to close early on the Tuesday of the week of Christmas is because Christmas in 2020 lands on a Friday and Friday is only a four hour day, and employees are entitled to a full day of pay for a holiday. Since the request stated to close early on Christmas Eve as well, the Board would like to know if the remainder of Christmas Eve, even when closing early, will be paid for employees. Mr. Bridges stated he will find out and report back.

Sturbridge Conservation Commission request to use wetland protection funds for Cedar Lake

Motion: To authorize the use of the Wetlands Protection Fund for retaining a third party review and inspection on drainage improvements adjacent to Cedar Lake in the amount of \$4,200 By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Vote to pass the proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board to begin the Public Hearing process

Motion: To send the proposed zoning amendments back to the Planning Board for a public hearing By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

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Vote: All in Favor (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Adoption of Town Administrators goals for 2020

Mr. Bridges asked if the Board wanted to move any of the goals to the priority list. Selectwoman Gimas stated that developing a policy for alcohol on Town properties should be a priority as it gets to be warmer out. Selectman Kaibenski agreed. Chair Blanchard stated that enhancing outreach with our businesses should not be a goal because it's already being done in a successful way. Vice Chair Dowling agreed stating that we don't need to do anything differently in terms of outreach.

**Motion: To Adopt the Town Administrator's Goals for 2020 By: Selectwoman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaibenski**

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Old Business

Selectwoman Gimas mentioned that she was still bothered by the events that happened at the February 12, 2020 Board of Selectman's meeting. She stated she still is in disbelief that the Planning Board is allowed to make the decision about retail marijuana shops over the elected officials. Selectwoman Gimas stated that she looked at the minutes from Planning Board and the minutes show that it is the job of the Board of Selectmen to choose two. She believes the applicants are now in a bad position especially with it being first come first serve to the Planning Board. She asked if all the agreements will be given at same time. Mr. Bridges said once the agreements are completed by KP Law they will be emailed to applicants and it's up to the applicant to get it returned. Mr. Bridges stated that if the applicant returns the agreement, that is when the agreement would be presented to the Board to sign. Selectwoman Gimas stated that she will only sign two, and Vice Chair Dowling said she would like to sign the agreements in open session.

New business

Vice Chair Dowling mentioned meeting with a high school student and would like to have him and his democratic classmates placed on the agenda sometime in the near future.

Correspondence

Chair Blanchard read through the correspondence.

Approval of Minutes

February 3, 2020

**Motion: To approve the minutes of February 3, 2020 as amended By: Selectwoman Gimas
2nd: Selectman Kaibenski**

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

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Citizen's forum

None

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 7:41 p.m. By: Selectwoman Gimas

2nd: Selectman Kaibenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)

Adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Andrea Mensen

Clerk of the Board:  **Date signed:** 03-05-2020