

June 17, 2019

**Board of Selectmen  
June 17, 2019  
Town Hall**

AMENDED

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Mike Suprenant, Clerk

**Staff:**

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator  
Andrea Mensen, Administrative Assistant

**Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.**

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

**Chair Blanchard read through the agenda.**

**Public Service Announcements**

Vice- Chair Dowling thanked residents for attending the Annual Town Meeting.

**Live entertainment/ Billiards permit- Pine Lake RV Resort & Cottages**

Philip Moreau came before the board and introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his RV Resort. He gave an update on anticipated opening date of the park, saying that the frost and weather has set the opening back, but they are shooting for a Labor Day opening. He announced that all ten of the conference rooms, and six bathroom suites were all finished.

**Motion: To approve the live entertainment and billiards permits. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice- Chair Dowling**

**Vote: 3-0-1 (Selectman Kaitbenski abstained)**

**Special One Day Liquor License- Agronomy Farm Vineyard- Sturbridge Farmer's Market's**

No one from the vineyard was able to be present. Selectwoman Gimas asked if it needed to be approved by the Police Department. Chair Blanchard informed that it did not, and asked about the start time of alcohol consumption. The Board discussed that the start time of alcohol consumption is 10am on Sundays.

**Motion: To approve the One Day Liquor License for Agronomy Farm Vineyard at the Sturbridge Farmer's Markets. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

**Vote: 3-0-1 (Vice- Chair Dowling abstained)**

## **Department Head Updates**

### **DPW**

Butch Jackson, Public Works Director, came before the Board and asked if they had any questions about the DPW's April and May reports. Vice- Chair Dowling mentioned that she has seen a huge improvement in the pot holes in town. Mr. Jackson added that the water line on Clark Road is almost complete. In addition, a beaver device has been installed at 70 Holland Road, which has four sections of beaver damns. This new device lowers the water so the beavers cannot stop it. It has been up for two weeks and has been working great. Mr. Jackson is hoping to do something similar on Copper Road in the near future.

### **Water/Sewer**

Shane Moody, of Veolia Water, came before the Board with the operating reports from April and May. Chair Blanchard brought up the increase since March. Mr. Moody mentioned that unless we get a lot of rainfall this week, we will be in a water ban. Mr. Moody had other updates for the board which included: The Clark Road water line is finished, the rain has kept the department from accomplishing their to-do list quickly, but they are playing catch up, and other than that things are business as usual. Selectwoman Gimás asked if the meters were all done. Mr. Moody said they have two remaining, and what makes it a challenge is that people are not paying the fines. Chair Blanchard asked Mr. Bridges to make sure that all fines are being paid. Mr. Bridges stated he will follow up with Mr. Moody this week on the subject and in the meantime, Mr. Moody said he will send Mr. Bridges an email with the contact info.

### **Recreation**

Annie Roscioli, Recreation Director, came before Board with an update on the Recreation Department's last year of activities. She informed the board that all her events were successful. Ms. Roscioli had great turnout and feedback on the fall and spring bonfires, and the department is planning to do another bonfire this fall. Mentioned the first concert on the common was cancelled due to rain. Ms. Roscioli informed the Board that Friendly's and the hot dog cart from Publick House will be available for attendees of the Thursday concerts.

Vice- Chair Dowling asked how many children had signed up for the Rec Summer program so far. Ms. Roscioli stated that right now they have 25 signed up. People are also able to sign up on the first day or during the first week of the program. There was a Newspaper article advertising for the program as well as a flyer sent to the residents of Sturbridge. It was mentioned that there is financial assistance available for families if needed.

Ms. Roscioli informed the Board of the court conditions at the Rec. DPW and the project manager are speaking about next steps to re finish the courts.

The department is in the process of putting lighting in at the little league field. Chair Blanchard asked about the discussion about too much pickle ball taking place. Ms. Roscioli said the last meeting was well attended, and since then she hasn't received any complaints. Selectman Kaitbenski asked what Ms. Roscioli's opinion of the one day liquor license for concerts on the common is. Ms. Roscioli stated that she and the committee would have liked to see Bay State Brewing at the common for the concerts, and said she believe Bay State will be back before the Board when the full Board is present. Vice- Chair Dowling suggested that Ms. Roscioli and the committee come up with criteria as far as how many vendors would be allowed at the concerts on the common if one vendor got approved. Selectwoman Gimás questioned it being feasible for vendors to rotate, so one vendor would be on the common each week. Ms. Roscioli says she would rotate vendors, if there were more than one interested, to eliminate competition. Vice- Chair Dowling would like to check on insurance, to see if there is a policy in place stating what the drink limit is per person.

In conclusion of the department update Selectman Kaitbenski asked when we will know about the land that got approved to be tested at the Rec for ball fields, etc. Ms. Roscioli said within the next month or so we should have a bid and get some answers.

### **Town Administrator's Update**

Mr. Bridges updated the board about holiday traffic on Farquhar Road, American Flags for the Town Common have been ordered and delivered, the permit process is being worked through, but the Flags are scheduled to be up prior to Fourth of July.

Mr. Bridges provided his calendar of the last three months to the Board to show who he has met with, etc. Selectwoman Gimás stated this is something the Board has not been given in the past, and thinks it is nice to see.

### **Annual Appointments**

Chair Blanchard read through the appointments.

#### **Conservation Commission**

Steve Halterman, to re-appoint for 3 years  
David Barnicle, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Vacant (Paul Zapun not returning)  
Erik Gaspar, to appoint for 3 years

#### **Council on Aging**

Ann White, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Antionette Peterson, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Barbara GionFriddo, to re-appoint for 3 years

#### **Cultural Council**

Edward Cornely, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Vacant (Angela Zanolli not seeking re-appointment)  
Vacant (Dwayne Barnes not seeking re-appointment)  
Vacant (Susan Caplette term limited)

#### **Design Review**

Elaine Cook, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Chris Wilson, to re-appoint for 3 years

#### **Historical Committee**

Bailey Applegate, to re-appoint for 3 years  
Cathy Zavistowski, TBD

#### **Planning Board**

Russell Chamberland, to re- appoint for 3 years  
Vacant (Heather Hart not seeking re-appointment)

**Safety Committee**

Thomas Ford, to re- appoint for 3 years

**Sturbridge Tourist Association**

Brian Amedy, to re- appoint for 3 years

**Tantasqua School Committee**

Vacant (Susan Kline not returning)

**Employees**

**Fire Department**

Jonathan Becker, to re- appoint for 3 years  
Autumn Courville, to re- appoint for 3 years  
Anthony Massina, to re- appoint for 3 years

**Police**

Earl Dessert, to re- appoint for 3 years  
Jeffrey Forcier, to re- appoint for 3 years  
David Fortier, to re- appoint for 3 years

**Town Council**

Kopelman & Paige PC, to re- appoint for 1 year

Chair Blanchard placed a hold on the Council on Aging Committee, questioning Mr. Zapun's letter which was to not seek re-appointment, but his email displayed a typo.

Typo was addressed.

**Motion: To approve all the members and/or employees listed, for appointments. By: Selectwoman Gimas.**

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

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

Selectwoman Gimas asked the status of the School Committee opening and the applicants. The Board discussed a joint meeting between themselves and the School Committee, which hopefully will be set up sometime at the end of the summer.

Selectman Kaitbenski thanked the committee members that are not returning, for their time invested in the Town, especially Heather Hart who has given many years to Sturbridge.

**Concur with the Appointment of Leslie Wong as the Council on Aging Director**

Leslie Wong, interim Council on Aging Director, came before the Board and introduced herself, and provided the Board with a brief overview of her experience with the town for the last fifteen years. Selectwoman Gimas asked how many applicants there were for this position, and brought up Mrs. Wong's education not matching what the jobs needs.

Chair Blanchard said although Mrs. Wong did not have the education, she is confident that with her experience in the Town of Sturbridge, she was a good choice. Vice- Chair Dowling expressed she is thrilled with this appointment, and she knows the members of the Senior Center will be very happy. She is pleased that the town has a policy to promote from within.

**Motion: To concur with the appointment of Leslie Wong as the Council on Aging Director: By: Selectman Kaitbenski.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice- Chair Dowling**

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

**Concur with the Appointment of: Austin Varney, Barry Emerson, and Chase Freeland as Summer Help for the DPW.**

Mr. Jackson, DPW Director, introduced the three candidates and informed the Board they would be going for their physical and drug tests June, 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Blanchard asked the candidates if they had graduated, and what their plans were following high school. Austin Varney said he will be going to Franklin Piece, and Chase Freeland said he will be attending Virginia State.

**Motion: To concur with the appointments of: Austin Varney, Barry Emerson, and Chase Freeland as summer help for the DPW. By: Selectwoman Gimas.**

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

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

**Accept Resignation of Emmanuel Martin from the Fire Department**

Chair Blanchard read Emmanuel Martin's resignation letter.

**Motion: To accept the resignation of Emmanuel Martin from the Sturbridge Fire Department. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Accept Resignation/ Retirement of Thomas Chamberland from Tree Warden**

Chair Blanchard read Thomas Chamberland's resignation letter.

**Motion: To accept the resignation / retirement of Thomas Chamberland from Tree Warden. By: Selectwoman Gimas.**

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

Vice- Chair Dowling mentioned Mr. Chamberland's loyalty to the town, saying that it is matched by few people and he will be missed by many.

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

**Conservation & Wetland Fund Appropriation FY20**

Chair Blanchard read the letter sent by Becky Gendreau, Conservation Agent, which asked for funding from the Wetland Protection Fund to help with a portion of the salary for the Conservation Departments Administrative Assistant.

**Motion: To approve the request for the appropriation of funds. By: Selectwoman Gimas.**

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

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

**Amend Section 5.12 (B) of the Town's Personnel Policies -2017 to increase the police supervisor's accreditation stipend from 1% to 2% effective July 1, 2019**

**Motion: To approve the police supervisor's accreditation stipend from 1% to 2% effective July, 1 2019. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Designation of the position of Community Preservation Clerk as a "Special Municipal Employee"**

**Motion: To approve the position of Community Preservation Clerk as a "Special Municipal Employee" By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Approval of Goods and Service Bid Results**

Chair Blanchard asked if anyone had any questions on DPW's bid results report. No one came forward with any questions.

**Motion: To approve the Bid Results for goods and services. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Approve request to dispose of old DPW pickup trucks**

Mr. Jackson came before the Board and explained that he has three pickup trucks that are beyond repair, and he would like to dispose of them.

**Motion: To approve the request of disposing three old DPW pickup trucks. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Old Business**

Selectwoman Gimas spoke about a topic that came up at the May 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting. She suggests that when a local business is being discussed during a meeting, that the board does not speak of their concerns publically, rather would like to see comments taken to the Town Administrator.

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Selectwoman Gimas asked about the train stop and if a letter had been drafted by Selectman Suprenant yet, and if the Board was in support of the train stop. Chair Blanchard stated that a letter had been sent and that they have not heard back, because it is a slow process. Mr. Bridges stated he would follow up on the letter.

Vice- Chair Dowling followed up on the topic of violations, and discussed with the Board.

**New Business**

Selectwoman Gimas stated that she liked the electronic copy of the packet, and that perhaps the Board could get tablets for more of an electronic approach to meetings.

**Correspondence**

Vice- Chair Dowling read the correspondence.

**Approval of Minutes**

June 3, 2019

**Motion: To approve the minutes from June 3, 2019. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

**Vote: 3-0-1 (Chair Blanchard Abstained) (Selectman Suprenant Absent)**

**Adjourn**


**Motion: To adjourn at 7:30 pm. By: Selectwoman Gimas**

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

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

**Adjourned at 7:30 PM**

**Minutes prepared by: Andrea Mensen**

Clerk of the Board: 

Date signed: 07-15-2019