

February 1, 2021

**Board of Selectmen
February 1, 2021
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chair
Mary Dowling, Vice Chair
Selectman Michael Suprenant

Absent:

Selectman Chase Kaitbenski
Selectman Ian Dunnigan

Staff:

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Alex McConnon, Administrative Assistant

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Chair Blanchard read the following statement: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town's on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code. (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blanchard read the Agenda.

Public Service Announcements

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The Selectmen announced that residents who are 75 years and older who need help with the appointment procedure for the COVID-19 vaccine can contact the Senior Center at (508) 347-7575.

Chair Blanchard announced that the nomination papers for the April Town election are available and to contact the Town Clerk.

Moment of Silence

The Selectmen held a moment of silence in honor of all those affected from COVID-19.

Pole Hearing – National Grid Installation of one (1) jointly owned pole on 7 Cove Drive

Due to the inclement weather, National Grid needed to be on storm duty and was not able to attend.

Motion: Continue the Pole Hearing for National Grid for the Pole at 7 Cove Drive to February 16, 2021 at 6:35 p.m.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Pole Hearing – National Grid Installation of two (2) jointly owned poles on 50 Hillside Drive

Due to the inclement weather, National Grid needed to be on storm duty and was not able to attend.

Motion: Continue the Pole Hearing for National Grid for the Pole at 50 Hillside Drive to February 16, 2021 at 6:40 p.m.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Department Reports:

Water and Sewer Department

Shane Moody, Water & Sewer Department reported on December 2020. Selectman Suprenant was concerned about the emergency distribution collection repairs budget since it seems to be running above the expected amount. Mr. Moody said his overall goal is to make sure he is under budget by the end of the year and they could be over budget at the moment due to spending money on various unexpected projects.

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Mr. Moody said the Old Sturbridge Village oil tank that leaked into the ground in Zone 1, Well #1 was shut off earlier that day prior to the spill and has not been used since. Mr. Moody said he is working with DEP and the emergency response people and the pump and treat is scheduled to start February 11, 2021. Per Mr. Moody, the Well is out of commission right now but there is still plenty of water to keep that demand and he will keep the Board updated. Selectman Suprenant asked if there was indication of putting in a recovery unit for an extended period of time but Mr. Moody said it is a pump and treat right now and that it is too early to determine at the moment.

Mr. Moody also discussed the E-1 pumps in town and how some of them are getting old. Mr. Moody requested a vote from the Board of Selectmen that any new E-1 pumps installed would be the responsibility of the owner and not the Town. Chair Blanchard asked Mr. Moody for a report on the E-1's before making a vote on it. Mr. Moody confirmed that he would put a summary together to share with the Board of Selectmen so that they can decide what to do with this issue in the future.

Town Administrator

Mr. Bridges gave the Board of Selectmen an update on the water testing on McGilpin Road. Vice Chair Dowling asked where 1,4 Dioxane was found and Mr. Bridges explained that it is around the landfill but it is not in the monitoring wells between the landfill monitoring wells and the houses. Per Mr. Bridges, it does not seem to be radiating from outside the monitoring wells of the landfill itself. Mr. Bridges confirmed that lead was found in the houses but not in the house's water or their wells. Vice Chair Dowling requested that the affected houses get a memorandum about this issue so that they know that the Town has followed up with DEP. Mr. Bridges confirmed that he would send more information out to the homes.

Mr. Bridges said that DEP is overseeing the site assessment for the landfill and they need to continue to test before any conclusions are reached. Vice Chair Dowling asked if DEP are checking the wells and houses in addition to checking the monitoring of the wells. Mr. Bridges said the USGS is conducting the lead analysis of the houses, saying they tested the wells and the water coming out of the taps in the houses and are comparing those two to identify where the source of the lead is.

Charlie McDevitt, a resident McGilven Road called in and said it would be helpful to get an update on the status of the wells and that any results found in the testing, whether it be good or bad, would be good to have.

Mr. Bridges also announced that the recycling center will be closed on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 due to the current snowstorm and notification has been posted on the Town's social media pages.

Consideration and possible action on Conservation Outbuilding Removal Project – Award Contractor Contract

Ms. Rebecca Gendreau, Conservation Agent said that last year at the Annual Town Meeting, they put a request together for the Community Preservation Committee for the removal of the

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outbuildings and they received approval for those funds. Per Ms. Gendreau, they are moving forward with awarding the bid to a contractor. Ms. Gendreau stated that they put out a request for proposals (RFP) for the removal project which includes the removal of asbestos that was found and are looking to move forward with a proposal from Associated Building Wrecker's in the amount of \$153,040.

Motion: Accept the bid from Associated Building Wrecker's in the amount of \$153,040 for the demolition of the outbuildings on the Conservation Properties and authorize the Select Board Chair to sign the contract.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Consideration and possible action on Conservation Outbuilding Removal Project – Approve Fuss and O'Neill for Construction Administration of said project

Ms. Gendreau said they would like Fuss and O'Neill to be contracted to do projects oversight and final visual inspection services that would go along with it. Robyn Chrabasz, Facilities Coordinator said the proposal request is not to exceed the \$6,000.

Selectman Suprenant asked if there was a standard form of agreement or contract that has been approved by Town Counsel and Mr. Bridges confirmed. Selectman Suprenant asked to attach the standard form agreement to the proposal and as a practice going forward for any proposal like this. Mr. Bridges clarified that this proposal is a follow-on to Fuss and O'Neill's primary work which was to design a work plan for the Town and now the Town is amending it to include some on-site services during the removal of the buildings.

Motion: Authorize the Town Administrator to sign the proposal for the Project Monitoring and Summary Report Phases with Fuss & O'Neill based on the PRF69 terms and conditions for the cost hourly not to exceed \$6,000 with the stipulation that the Town Accountant in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 31 C that there is appropriation for the work.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Mr. Bridges added that this particular contract is purchased based upon the statewide contract and the Town accepts those terms and conditions when the Town utilizes those services.

Consideration and possible action on "order of layout" for the Cul-de-sac on Hillside Drive

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Motion: I move that this Board order the extension of the layout of Hillside Drive as a public way in the location depicted as "Parcel A 12,879 Sq. Ft." on the plan entitled: "Lot Division Plan of Land in Sturbridge, MA, prepared for Charles B. McDevitt Revocable Trust & Nancy A. McDevitt Revocable Trust (Owners)", dated March 5, 2018, prepared by Roger Woods & Co., recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 933, Plan 112, endorse an Order of Layout to that effect in the form presented, and file the Order and relevant plan with the Town Clerk and report it to Town Meeting for acceptance.

By: Vice Chair Dowling

2nd: Chair Blanchard

Chair Blanchard: YES, **Vice Chair Dowling:** YES, **Selectman Suprenant:** YES, **Selectman Kaitbenski:** ABSENT, **Selectman Dunnigan:** ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Consideration and possible action on confirmation of the appointment of Matthew Wyke as Emergency Management Coordinator

Per Mr. Bridges, the former Emergency Management Coordinator could not continue through his personal commitments in his job and Chief Dessert recommended Mr. Wyke for the position saying that he has a background in the area. Selectman Suprenant asked how many hours this position would be and Sergeant Sean Paine confirmed that it is between 10 to 12 hours a week.

Motion: Confirm the appointment of Matthew Wyke to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator effective Feb. 2, 2021 at a rate of \$19.35 per hour.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, **Vice Chair Dowling:** YES, **Selectman Suprenant:** YES, **Selectman Kaitbenski:** ABSENT, **Selectman Dunnigan:** ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Consideration and possible action on a license for the repair of a water well line for 116 Wallace Road

Mr. Bridges asked to continue this to the next meeting saying that he received a draft from K.P. Law and the potential buyer and the lender are currently reviewing it. Selectman Suprenant said that normally in a public way, the Department of Public Works would issue a permit and not a license since a license can be an indefinite period of time. Mr. Bridges said since the house closing is on February 29, 2021, the only way to expedite this for the sale to take place is for the Town to issue a license which will allow the owner of the well to repair the line if necessary to make sure they have a water source. Mr. Bridges said that in this case, this is for if the well breaks down, the Town will not prevent the owner for fixing their water line.

The Board of Selectmen will continue discussing this action item in the future.

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Old Business:

Vice Chair Dowling said that she knows that the applicant of the racetrack made it clear that sports betting would make it economically viable and said it looks like there will be a new bill that will be a stand-alone bill in this legislature to pass sports betting. Vice Chair Dowling noticed that one of the changes with the bill is that it will be presented with a \$10 million dollar application fee and asked if the applicant would still be going forward with the larger application fee. Mr. Bridges said that the Town could reach out to the applicant and this will be an item at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

COVID-19 Update

Per Mr. Bridges, in addition to the vaccinations at Harrington Hospital, the Town of Palmer has been given 100 doses of the vaccine a week. Sturbridge will get 10 of those doses a week and more appointments will become available. Vice Chair Dowling asked if the Board of Selectmen could have another joint meeting with the Board of Health saying that perhaps Sturbridge could take initiative to become a mobile site and be a leader like some of the other surrounding towns. Mr. Bridges said he would reach out to the Board of Health.

New Business:

Selectman Suprenant asked about the Classification and Compensation Study and Mr. Bridges said the Board of Selectmen will see the plan soon.

Chair Blanchard requested that the Board of Selectmen take a vote to sign the election warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Motion: Sign the warrant for the Annual Town Election for the second Monday in April.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Correspondence:

Selectman Suprenant read the correspondence.

Vice Chair Dowling also said that she received an e-mail from a resident at 7 Seneca Lane on 124 expressing her various concerns about the proposed Senior Center on 70 Cedar Street.

Approval of Minutes:

January 21, 2021.

Motion: To approve minutes of January 21, 2021, as written.

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By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman

Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan and absent)

Citizen's forum:

NONE

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

By: Selectman Suprenant

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Blanchard: YES, Vice Chair Dowling: YES, Selectman Suprenant: YES, Selectman

Kaitbenski: ABSENT, Selectman Dunnigan: ABSENT

Vote: 3-0 (Selectman Kaitbenski and Selectman Dunnigan absent)

Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Alex McConnon

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

02-22-2021