

July 6, 2021

Board of Selectmen

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Town Hall

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chair
Mary Dowling, Vice Chair
Selectman Chase Kaitbenski, Clerk
Selectman Jamie Goodwin

Staff:

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Alex McConnon, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Selectman Ian Dunnigan

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blanchard read the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

Vice Chair Dowling said she hoped everyone had a Happy Fourth of July and mentioned how Old Sturbridge Village's New Citizenship Ceremony was successful.

Moment of Silence

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

Consideration and possible action on a special one-day liquor license for Greater Good Brew Company

Paul Wengender from Greater Good Imperial Brew Company out of Worcester represented. He asked the Board of Selectmen for special one-day liquor licenses for the Sturbridge Concerts on the Common for July and August. Chair Blanchard stated that she was not in favor. Selectman Kaitbenski said he was okay with the request since it is a controlled area and that a previous request like this did not have any problems. Vice Chair Dowling asked to abstain from the vote since a request like this opens up liability for the Town.

Mr. Bridges read the recommendations from the Police Chief to the applicant.

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Motion: Approve the special one-day liquor licenses for Greater Good Brew Company.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

Vote: 2-1-1 (Chair Blanchard NO, Vice Chair Dowling ABSTAINED, Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on a Hawker & Peddler License for Michael Sutherland of Sunrun

Michael Sutherland requested to sell solar energy for his company. He said he does not do door knocking but he applied for this license so that it would be available when he is in the neighborhood. Mr. Sutherland said the only time he would do a door knock would be during the time of installing to introduce himself to the neighborhood and to offer solar option services, which would be between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vice Chair Dowling was concerned with the pandemic and the amount of vaccinations available for children and asked to have modifications on the motion.

Motion: Approve the request as presented at the Selectman's meeting tonight with the condition that Mr. Sutherland limits door-to-door from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and wears a mask at all times.

By: Vice Chair Dowling

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action for a Auctioneer's license for the Sturbridge Federated Church on behalf of Robert H. Glass Associates

Motion: Approve the Sturbridge Federated Church Auctioneers license to occur on Saturday, August 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

By: Vice Chair Dowling

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on a Change of Manager for Apple New England, LLC on their liquor license

Christopher Agnitti, General Manager for Applebee's, represented saying he would be the new manager on the liquor license. Chair Blanchard noticed that the TIPs certification expires in December but Mr. Agnitti said he was aware.

Motion: Approve the Change of Manager for Apple New England, LLC on their liquor license to Chris Agnitti.

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By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on a Change of Manager for Ocean State Job Lot on their liquor license

Keith Callahan represented Ocean State Job Lot saying he would be the proposed manager on the liquor license.

Motion: Move to change the manager amendment liquor license application to Keith Callahan for Ocean State Job Lot.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on an engineering design contract for the Fiske Hill Sewer Pump Station and Force Main

Mr. Bridges said there is a section of the Town serviced by Southbridge in their sewer and at the time that the line was constructed, Sturbridge's plant did not have the capacity to handle that volume of waste. Per Mr. Bridges, since the plant was upgraded, the Town has the capacity and now it seems appropriate to capture that flow back to the wastewater plant. Mr. Bridges said that as the volume increases, so do the payments to Southbridge. Mr. Bridges stated that Sturbridge would like to build a new Pump Station and Force Main to capture that flow and send it back to the plant. Per Mr. Bridges, the contract from Tighe & Bond makes sure the capacity is efficient for the additional flow, which is below what was approved at Town Meeting.

Vice Chair Dowling recapped that Town Meeting approved \$200,000 for the design of a sewer and the value of the contract is \$176,000. Mr. Bridges said the Town does not know what the payoff will be until the Town gets the numbers for the cost of construction, but long term, it will be an enhancement to the system. Selectman Goodwin asked if there was a timeline for these type of loans and Mr. Bridges said 20 years is typically the loan amount but for the mechanical equipment, it probably would not be advisable longer than that.

Motion: Approve the engineering agreement with Tighe & Bond for the Main Street Pump Station and force main.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on bids for paving and materials for the Department of Public Works

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Mr. Jackson, DPW Director said they got good prices and went through the list and pointed out the comparisons to previous years.

Motion: Approve the agenda item as written for goods and services for the bids of services for the Department of Public Works for FY 2022.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Vice Chair Dowling thanked Mr. Jackson for sending a list to the state about the potholes in the area.

Consideration and possible action on the use of Chapter 90 funds for the annual paving program

Mr. Jackson said he is requesting \$700,000 but said after this year, this would clean everything up from the last CMRPC paving plan. Per Mr. Jackson, the remaining balance in the Chapter 90 account after this program will be \$3.4 million.

Motion: Approve the use of the Chapter 90 funds for the summer 2021 paving program.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on the acceptance of resignation of Tyler Gustafson from the Department of Public Works

Motion: Accept the resignation of Tyler Gustafson from the Department of Public Works effective July 3, 2021 and thank him for his service.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on an easement for National Grid at 65 Whittemore Road

Mr. Bridges said this was approved at Town Meeting, which goes back to the construction of the new water pump station. Per Mr. Bridges, National Grid needed a pole location and requested an easement so the Town gave them a license until Town Meeting approval and now the Board of Selectmen has to formally approve the easement.

Motion: Approve the easement for National Grid for 65 Whittemore Road.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

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All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on increasing the stipend for the Farmer's Market Manager from \$1,500 to \$2,000

Mr. Bridges said the Farmer's Market committee and volunteers recommended the increase and that funds are available.

Motion: Increase the stipend for the Farmer's Market Manager from \$1,500 per season to \$2,000 beginning with the 2021 Farmer's Market.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on the acceptance and authorization for use of a donation to the Sturbridge Senior Center

Chair Blanchard said the donation came from a local Dunkin Donuts and it was for \$3,000.

Motion: Accept the donation.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on appointments to Boards and Committees

Mr. Bridges appointed Walter Hersee to the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Russell Chamberland expiring in 2024.

Mr. Bridges explained that the Town Clerk's office worked out a schedule of terms to disperse the expiration dates, which needed to be reconfirmed from the last Board of Selectmen meeting. Chair Blanchard read the following names:

Council on Aging:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Annette Roberts – | term expiring June of 2023 |
| Ken Benson – | term expiring June of 2022 |
| Ken White – | term expiring June of 2024 |
| Mary Lawless – | term expiring June of 2023 |
| Rebecca Mimeault – | term expiring June of 2023 |
| Margaret Darling – | term expiring June of 2024 |
| Susan Grandone – | term expiring June of 2024 |
| Ann White – | term expiring June of 2022 |

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Barbara Gionfreddo – term expiring June of 2022

Sturbridge Cultural Council:

Kerry Carey (reappointment)

Jim Douglas – 53 Whittemore Road

Antonia Squier – 8 Fiske Hill Road

Motion: Approve these appointments.

By: Vice Chair Dowling

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on the resignation of Tami Warner as a Part-Time Dispatcher

Motion: Accept the resignation of Tami Warner as a part-time dispatcher with the Sturbridge Police Department effective June 28, 2021 and thank her for her service.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Consideration and possible action on an amendment to a contract for participation for public information meetings on the Senior Center Study Project

Mr. Bridges said the Town wants to educate the public on the project and to have the Architect and Engineer available for a presentation and questions. Per Mr. Bridges, the Town is preparing to hold at least two public information meetings regarding the results of the Senior Center Study project. The first session is set for Friday, July 9, 2021 and the second is for Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the Senior Center. Mr. Bridges said the cost per meeting is \$500 for each the Architect and the Engineer. There will also be a public hearing with the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Approve the additional funds for the consultants for the Senior Center Feasibility project for participation in the public information forums.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Old Business:

COVID-19 Update

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Mr. Bridges said the state has opened the registration for the VaxMillions program and those who have been vaccinated can register to win. Mr. Bridges also said The Town has received the first allotment of ARPA Funds but it was for \$502,252.06, which was half of the town direct allocation money. Per Mr. Bridges, the money is going to revenue placement for the budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Mr. Bridges said there is supposed to be more money from allocations that would be made to a county, but since we are not in a functioning county, the Town will be receiving those funds. He suggested that once the rest of the money comes in, the Board of Selectmen should brainstorm ideas for the funds since the Town has 3+ years to spend those dollars.

Vice Chair Dowling said the VaxMillions program is at a state level and asked if individual towns could do a program like that at a town level. Mr. Bridges said he would check the treasury rules to see if it is possible.

Keno Monitor – Fred's Variety

Mr. Patel represented Fred's Variety. Chair Blanchard said since Fred's Variety already sells Keno, someone might be in to buy alcohol and would want to open it up in the store. Chair Blanchard stated that it is too much of a temptation and is hard to monitor. Vice Chair Dowling said since the store has a good history of no drinking on the premises, she is okay with the request and if it became a problem, then the Board of Selectmen could address it.

Motion: Notify the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that we approve the use of a Keno Monitor at Fred's Variety.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

Vote 3-1-0 (Chair Blanchard NO, Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Warehouse Projects in the Town of Charlton

Mr. Bridges said there are two large warehouse projects in Charlton, one at 241 Sturbridge Road, and the other at 53 Sturbridge Road, which is proposed to be an Amazon facility. Per Mr. Bridges, an outside Attorney, Art Krieger, will provide the Board with legal advice during the process for these facilities. Mr. Bridges said the Town also engaged an engineer at the Board of Selectmen's request.

Mr. Bridges showed the Board of Selectmen the draft letters and asked for their comments. Per Mr. Bridges, the comments for the facility at 241 Sturbridge Road are due July 9, 2021 and the comments for the facility at 53 Sturbridge Road are due July 13, 2021. Mr. Bridges said the facility at 241 is at the end of their MEPA process and the facility at 53 Sturbridge Road is at the beginning of their process. Per Mr. Bridges, both have public hearings before the Charlton Planning Board on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Chair Blanchard suggested that the Board of Selectmen read through the documents and give comments to Mr. Bridges as soon as possible.

Mr. Bridges noted that the traffic studies for both of these facilities do not recognize the existence of the other facility. He also said based upon the MEPA meeting on 53 Sturbridge Road, a comment by a representative of Charlton discussed the idea of a new egress, which may be an

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option. Mr. Bridges said he hopes MassDOT understands the impacts and will pay the cost. Mr. Bridges said the Amazon facility would be about 250 tractor-trailers but no vans delivering merchandise.

Review of the Request for Proposal for re-use of 8 Brookfield Road

Mr. Bridges said they have not added dates yet but they could be added if the Board of Selectmen wanted to move forward. He said he still has interested parties calling about the property, and some people may want to renovate the building.

Mr. Bridges said if the Town does put this RFP out, the Town will have an on-site meeting to make sure the applicant is aware of the condition of the building and Town Meeting will have to approve any sale or long-term lease. Mr. Bridges said given the dilapidated nature of the building, it will have to have a long-term lease (of 20+ years), or it could be used for a vacant parking area. Mr. Bridges decided that the Town would put it out there to see what interest comes in.

New Business:

NONE.

Correspondence

Selectman Kaitbenski read the correspondence.

Chair Blanchard said the Town got a letter from KP Law thanking the Board of Selectmen for reappointing them.

Vice Chair Dowling said there was a concerned resident on Cedar Street about the Senior Center project so she told them that there would be a public hearing to discuss it.

Mr. Bridges said there was a letter to Mr. Jackson, DPW Director from MassDOT for a sidewalk for Burgess that discusses the Town getting money from the state.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the Minutes of June 21, 2021 as written.

By: Selectman Kaitbenski

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Citizen's Forum

NONE.

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Mr. Bridges said the dock permit on the last agenda had the wrong address on it and in crosschecking the dock files, there was already a temporary dock approved for that location at 288A Clarke Road Extension. Mr. Bridges said the second applicant came forward with a Court Order about the location, which he sent to Town Counsel who recommended allowing the second applicant from last meeting have the dock. Per Mr. Bridges, he spoke with the first applicant and they understood. The Board decided to allow the Court Documents to stand for themselves.

Adjourn

Motion: Motion to adjourn.

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

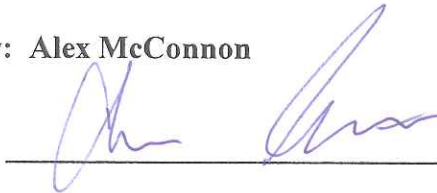
All in favor

Vote: 4-0-0 (Selectman Dunnigan ABSENT)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Alex McConnon

Clerk of the Board:



Date signed:

8/2/21