

Town of Brimfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall, 21 Main Street  
Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2018

Present: Chair; Paul McCarthy, member; Paul Vandal, member; Ryan Olszta; member; Carolyn Haley  
Absent, Admin; Carol Camerota, Vice Chair; Michele-Lee Shea  
Others: Police Chief; Charles Kuss, Fire Chief; Brendan McCarthy, James Stearns, Jr., Washington Rd. residents, Town Clerk; Bob Sullivan

Cable recording: S. Costa  
(McCarthy) called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Payroll & Warrants:**  
Board reviewed and signed payroll and warrants.

**Minutes:**  
Review and approve minutes of August 6, 2018.

**Motion #18-235:** by (Haley) move to approve minutes as written of August 6, 2018, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

**Review & Action:**

Use of Town Hall-TRY Soccer:

TRY Soccer is requesting use of the town hall for their meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

**Motion #18-236:** by (Haley) move to approve use of town hall for TRY Soccer's meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Appointment for ACO:

No appointment has been made as of July 1, 2018. A letter was sent out to C. Petersen notifying him that he had not been reappointed. He is still interested as well as O'Connor who submitted a letter of interest. Discussion of the Job description and status of the ACO which includes continued annual education and training. The board will also look into how this appointment is paid and the having it changed to a "per call" method. Appointment will be posted with a job description.

Requested Appointments:

**Motion #18-237:** by (Haley) move to appoint Mary Bernstein to Memorial Day Committee until June 30, 2019, Mike Moloney-Finance Committee until June 30, 2021 and Ted Steensen-Finance Committee until June 30, 2021, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

Town Clerk:

B. Sullivan spoke to the board regarding Democratic and Republican Committees in town and the procedure for appointing Board of Registrars by the Selectmen. Vacancy notice will be posted. B. Sullivan will provide the description. The Bylaw Committee is made from one member nominated by moderator, one from the Selectmen and those 2 choose the third member. The BOS will post these also and ask for nominations. The board made the public aware of the Warrant Authorization for the State election set to be held Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Signed by the Board.

Annual Common Victualler License:

**Motion #18-238:** by (Vandal) move to approve Annual Common Victualler for Brian Treitman-B.T.'s Smokehouse, Sturbridge, MA, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

**Old Business:**

James Stearns-Washington Rd. complaint:

J. Stearns came before the board to reiterate his disappointment in the town not willing to do more with the trucks traveling on Washington Rd. Mr. Stearns made several suggestions such as having Palmer Paving widen the road or classify the road as "scenic". No officers have come by to address the problem. Trucks are hauling material out of Warren at high rates of speed on a noncommercial road. Taxpayers of the town will eventually have to pay to repair that road that is being ruined. The board expressed that the town cannot refuse anyone use of the town's roads. Suggestions were made that he pursue legal options or propose a bylaw change.

Chief Kuss reported that officers have gone down to check the road and trucks traveling on it. Trucks are allowed to travel on public roads.

He will research the posting of a scenic road as well as DOT regulations.

Five neighbors came to voice their complaints about speeding, running stop signs, drivers on cell phones and almost running cars off the road. Concern about all the kids that live in the road and their safety while waiting for the school bus. One resident will start recording what is happening.

The chief will send an officer up there sporadically to watch for violations and contact Palmer Paving about the issue and possible remedies.

**New Business:**

Josh Bolte will be leaving as videographer. The board thanked him for his service and wished him well. Bob Datz nominated Josh's brother Jason for the same position as videographer. The board voted unanimously to accept. Sylvia Costa is also leaving as videographer. The wished her well at college and thanked her for her service.

Use of common:

Troop 7 has requested use of the common on August 25<sup>th</sup> for their season kick off and picnic activities. The board voted unanimously.

Special town meeting request:

Planning Board has requested a special town meeting. With such a short time frame the board discussed approving that request. There are postings that need to be done within a specific time frame. Other towns in MA were able to do it under the new MA extension for the moratorium. (Haley) and (Olszta) petitioned for more information before authorizing the special meeting.

IT support:

Bids will need to go out for IT support. Tantasqua will no longer be able to handle Brimfield. (Haley) mentioned Pat Burke and how helpful he had been in the past. The town's needs may be more involved for just one person. Tantasqua was overwhelmed with the setting up of the new Mitel phone system which was not part of their responsibilities.

Bond Counsel:

Brief discussion that the questions from Bond Counsel should be adequately addressed by offering the paperwork requested and no further input from the Town's legal counsel should be needed. All agreed; no motion. Informational only.

**Old Business:**

(Haley) gave follow up on the B & B applicant for Abigail's Nest. She has spoken with the applicant and been guiding her on what steps she needs to take to get her license.

Fire Department truck:

Brendan McCarthy reported that the town of Wales would like Brimfield's old pickup truck that will be taken off the road. Consequently the new Fire Tanker that was recently purchased is in need of more hose. Wales has offered 1400' of hose equivalent of \$5,000. Request for an even exchange. The board agreed and were grateful for help received from Wales and departments working together. Board voted unanimously.

**Public comment:**

Crumbling Foundations:

Caryn France petitioned the board to erect a temporary sign for an upcoming meeting in Monson regarding the Crumbling Foundation issue. This has been effecting homes over the border in Stafford, Ct and will become a huge problem in parts of western MA as well. Monson is been proactive about this issue. Homes in surrounding towns have already had to address foundation problems. She gave a brief education on the issue and requested placement of the sign. Suggested a possible abatement for effected homeowners.

**Motion #18-239:** by (McCarthy) to approve placement of sign with stipulation that it be removed Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, seconded by (Haley), all in favor.

**Office Matters:**

Complaint form:

The form would help address complaints brought into the town departments. Chair was not in favor of having suggestions on the form and limiting comments made by residents. Chief Kuss compared the process of making complaints to help track them.

**Motion #18-240:** by (Haley) move to approve complaint form, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

**Old Business:**

(Vandal) offered some numbers providing potential increase in costs per year if the town paid for 100% or 25% over 3 years and over 5 years. He suggested that 25% would be appropriate. (Haley) acknowledged herself as involved with the church and stated that the church paid for electricity use over the years and has provided for the seniors and that added cost was a burden to the church.

(Olszta) would like the town to do better for the Sr. Center and their space. It doesn't make sense to invest in this now and have them outgrown the space in several years. Hold until church would like to revisit.

Next meeting:

Tentatively set next meeting for Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> unless matters can wait until the regularly scheduled Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion #18-241:** by (McCarthy) move to adjourn at 8:11 p.m., seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

September 4, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Carol Camerota*

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: *Paul M. O'Keefe* DATE: *Sept 10, 2018*

Documents Utilized for this meeting

**MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE**

1. Minutes of August 6, 2018
2. TRY Soccer request for use of town hall
3. Animal Control applicants
4. Appointment letters
5. Common Victualler's
6. Letter to J. Stearns Jr.
7. Boy Scouts request for use of common
8. Planning Board request for special town meeting
9. Complaint form
10. Flyer for crumbling foundation meeting
11. Warrant for 2018 State Primary