

Town of Brimfield
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, 21 Main Street
Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2017

Present: Chair; Michael Miller, Vice Chair; Harold Leaming, member; Paul McCarthy, member; Paul Vandal, member; Michele-Lee Shea, recording; Carol Camerota

Others: Police Chief Kuss,; Accountant; Marie Arsenault, Health; Richard Costa, COA; Eva Pittsinger, Robert Corry, Mark Connors, Building Commissioner; Casey Burlingame, William Simonic, Tony Bys, Maria Thomson, and attached list of additional supporters for the Friends of the Sr. Center, Rusty and Katie Corriveau, Attorney John Connell, PVPC Chris Dunphy.

Cable recording: Bob Datz

(Miller) call to order at 6:19 p.m.

Payroll & Warrants:

Signed by Board

Minutes:

Review and sign minutes of November 27, 2017.

Motion #18-095: by (Leaming) move to approve minutes of November 27, 2017. (McCarthy) commented on the budget being up from last year under discussion with the Accountant. The board will revisit the budget in January. The Board of Assessors and DOR signed off on the tax classification and the tax rate has been set at .24 less per \$1,000, Motion seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Review & Action:

Total Communications proposal:

(Miller) reviewed with the board a proposal received by Total Communications for upgrading the town's phone system to Mitel VOP. Investing \$8,000 for all new equipment which would be state of the art voice over internet and installation. The town is currently spending an average of \$2,000 per month for all departments. The new system would be approximately \$500 per month. The board needs to consider deciding this year. Tantasqua would be guiding us through the process. Total Communications and Mitel are on the State vendor's list. Table until 12/26 meeting. (Leaming) agreed the current system is antiquated.

Sign appointment letters for website Committee:

The board signed appointment letters approved at the Nov. 27th meeting.

Review and sign Class II and Class III licenses:

Motion #18-096: by (McCarthy) move to approve Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses for Compass Auto Sales, 4 Old Palmer Road, Advanced Wheels of Technology, Inc., 6 Old Palmer Road and Automotive Specialties Repairs & Service, 86 Holland Road. Class III Motor Vehicle Licenses for Automotive Specialties Repairs & Service, 86 Holland Road, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Public Hearing:

Farmer Series Pouring Permit:

Called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Rusty and Katie Corriveau owners of Auction Barn Innovations, Inc. dba Brimfield Winery have applied for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit. Attorney, John Connell representing the Corriveaus referred to this license under M.G.L. ch.138, sec 19B and 19H. This license is not subject to the town's current quota of licenses from ABCC. Their winery license has been approved by the State. This pouring permit would limit them to only pour wine made by them or wine made by another winery but with their label on it. The Corriveaus would eventually be open year round but just seasonal to start. (Leaming) asked for explanation on the law and if there was a cap on how much can be poured. Atty, Connell said that under 19B a winery at some level can self-retail to restaurants and liquor stores but eventually would have to go to a wholesaler for distribution. Farmer wineries need to get another license to sell and take out wine.

Chief Kuss asked Atty to confirm that the municipality has certain control of the hours. Hours can be from 11am to 10pm and police can inspect. After hours are agreed upon the BOS would have to approve any changes. Brimfield Winery is asking to be open Monday thru Saturday from 12pm to 8pm and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm.

Motion #18-097: by (Leaming) move to approve an Annual Farmer Series Pouring Permit for Rusty and Katie Corriveau owners of Auction Barn Innovations, Inc. dba Brimfield Winery & Cider Barn. Business to be conducted Monday through Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm and Sunday 12:00pm to 6:00pm, observing and Monday holiday regulations, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

7:00 p.m. Public Meeting:

Chris Dunphy of PVPC - Community Development Strategy:

This Community Development Strategy is an identification of the community's needs. Ms. Pittsinger asked if the lead community makes the decision as to how the money is spent or do all. Dunphy replied that ultimately the lead does and Wales is currently the lead community. Brimfield can apply for a grant on their own if they wish. The letter submitted by E. Pittsinger as a review of the Food Pantry sent up

quite a few red flags. (Miller) would like distribution of the money looked into. Dunphy invited the board to come to a meeting. Dunphy then proceeded to review the draft CDS. He said the document is now required to be 3 pages as opposed to the previous 7; however, the priorities previously identified largely remain as the same needs and priorities. Dunphy went on to cite some including improved housing, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, accessibility concerns, economic development, and public social services. Dunphy stated the CDBG applications require public discourse and opportunity to comment relative to town priorities and needs, but that this particular component of the grant application is not a scored part of the competitive application. He suggested the town leave a comment period open until the next board meeting at which time the board would be asked to endorse the strategy.

March 2nd is the deadline and the RFP should occur mid-January.

Discussion on hold.

Review & Action continued:

M. Connors – Gazebo on common:

M. Connors and R. Corry spoke to the Building Commissioner as far as the setback requirements. A 15' set back is needed from the common boarder. The building plan will come from Klotter Farms in CT. The grade will be unknown until the final stages are reached. Because there are no designated parking spots around the common, it might not be required to have any handicap spots. Bylaws will be checked. There also is no reason to pass this by ZBA or planning. It will have minimal impact to the common. Plantings and walkway are included in the project.

Motion #18-098: by (McCarthy) vote to support the gazebo project. All required departments will be contacted, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Building Commissioner hours:

Casey Burlingame came before the board as requested. He is grateful to work for the town. He's done some research of surrounding communities and like population, Brimfield being the smallest. He felt his time was better spent in the field doing inspections than sitting in the office and didn't think the building should be opening Fridays with the heat running for just one office. Would the board consider lowering his office hours to 4 hours and the rest of his time in the field? (Leaming) replied that evening hours were required with the job and surrounding towns have later evening hours to accommodate people working and commuting. Burlingame said he could eliminate Friday hours and work Mondays from 4:30 to 8:30. The board wanted to see more daytime hours also and possibly consider some other day during the week. Burlingame will change the day to Wednesday from 4:30pm to 8:30pm.

Phil Lombardo-Cumberland Farms-funds for off-site mitigation:

(Miller) asked Phil Lombardo from Cumberland Farms about ZBA insisting that Cumberland's put up a barrier along the sidewalk in their project. Lombardo replied that forms of relief have been dealt with according to the gas station's use by ZBA in order for change of use. A special permit was required for the existing lot and the new parcel. There was a change of the non-conforming sign. Design plans were not ready for a combined hearing with ZBA and Planning. ZBA's concern was the car headlights shining onto the common. A 3' wall would not cover all the vehicle heights, however they would be happy to accommodate reasonable needs and have offered \$10,000 to the town for offsite mitigation. (Leaming) said a wall would impede public safety and also thought Highway, Fire and Police should be notified. Lombardo asked if the board could send a suggestion letter to ZBA. Table until 12/26 meeting and include Highway, Police and Fire. Cumberland's offered an additional \$1,000 to the town making the total \$11,000.

Motion #18-099: by (McCarthy) move to accept the offsite mitigation amount to Planning Board at \$11,000 from Cumberland Farms, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Continued: Chris Dunphy-PVPC:

Dunphy provided a little background for the grant. The CDBG is a federal program. Money is appropriated every year by Congress. The funds go to large cities and what is left goes to Dept. of Housing and Community Development. It then becomes competitive programs for towns to apply for. Demographics and financial factors effect who gets the money which is broken down by the states formula. The CDF1 and CDF2 communities has been changed to just one group now and there are no longer bonus points for regionalization.

The CDS draft shows the town's needs. The board needs to look over the draft. (McCarthy) asked if the priorities hold the town to anything. Table until January meeting. BOS will need to endorse at that meeting.

R. Costa - Trail Grant and Health Inspector flea market hours:

R. Costa and Wm. Simonic provided the board with at grant application for \$28,500 for Phase II Bridge over the Quinebaug River on the trail. The bridge is the final connection between Brimfield and Sturbridge. The Army Corps is aware of everything.

Motion #18-100: by (McCarthy) move to sign the grant application in the amount of \$28,500 for Phase II Bridge connection, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

The board commented on how beautiful the trail was. Simonic said that the number of people using the trail has tripled in the past few years.

Costa informed the board of the schedule of Health Inspector; Ron Woolhouse. He works 8 days during the flea market at between 70 and 75 hours. There are approximately 55 vendors that need half hour to an hour for inspection. Time is also spend before the market begins making sure the applications are complete and checking water quality for the fields. If problems arise he needs to file with the State or attend hearings. He does not put in for mileage. He begins around 4:00 am when food deliveries start arriving and continues to inspect vendors 3 to 4 times per day. Quality is important and the BOH feels he is the best inspector they've had in years. His pay is covered by the fees and generates revenue for the town.

T. Bys -- Ice ring on the common:

Tony Bys has done some research about putting up a temporary ice skating rink on the common. Aside from costs, what concerns would the BOS have? (Leaming) questioned any damage to the common and thought Sturbridge would possibly be able to provide some information. Bys will look into the town's liability insurance, how often liners need to be replaced and storage of the equipment. Highway will help maintain the rink. The Selectmen are in full support of the rink.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

(McCarthy) suggested the town apply on their own for the CDBG rather than being part of a regional one.

Public Access:

None.

Motion #18-101: by (McCarthy) move to adjourn at 8:22 p.m., seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

December 26, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: Michael P. Melh DATE: 1-8-2018

Documents Utilized for this meeting

MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE