

October 19, 2015

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2015**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas
Mary Dowling
Craig Moran
Michael Suprenant
Leon Gaumont, Jr., Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

P. Gimas said that she would like to see the start of another foundation like the REAS Foundation to assist elderly residents with their fuel bills. She said that if anyone is interested in assisting on such a committee, they should contact Judy Knowles at the Board of Selectmen's office at 508-347-2500 and she will provide them with P. Gimas' contact information.

M. Blanchard announced that the Rotary Club of Stourbridge, England had sent a proclamation to the Board of Selectmen to celebrate the special relationship between Stourbridge and Sturbridge. It was signed by Martyn Hall, President of the Rotary Club of Stourbridge, and Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley.

Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 6, 2015 as amended, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 16, 2013 as written, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: Three in favor; M. Suprenant and C. Moran abstained.

Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Todd Smola

October 19, 2015

Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Todd Smola appeared before the Board to discuss the state of affairs in Boston.

Senator Gobi said that things have been quite busy. They have been working on completing a supplemental budget.

Senator Gobi said that next year the date for the primary election will be on Thursday, September 8, 2016 rather than on the traditional Tuesday, as Town Clerks in the Commonwealth need time to prepare the polls, and Tuesday, September 6th is the day after Labor Day, so Town Clerks would have to be paid time and a half for working on Labor Day.

Senator Gobi said that there has been news from Administration and Finance that incoming revenues are not as robust as in previous years.

Senator Gobi expressed concern about the opiate epidemic in Massachusetts, and the need to do something about it. She noted that the Police Chief in Gloucester doesn't want to put addicts in jail, and wants more treatment centers to cope with the issue. She said that doctors and dentists should not be giving prescription drugs for pain management to their patients in such large amounts. She suggested that no more than 72 hours of pain medication be prescribed at one time. She expects that there will be a bill on that.

Senator Gobi said that the other big bill would be an energy bill of some sort. She noted that there will be a solar bill coming out before December. Rep. Smola said that there are more solar farms going up because of the federal tax credit.

Rep. Smola said that regarding public records reform, one of the big issues is that they have not been updated for over 40 years. He noted that some of the records requests take hours and hours of staff time to fulfill. He stressed the need to make sure that the requests are not frivolous. He said that sometimes the people who requested the information don't come back to pick up the information, which constitutes a waste of public employees' time.

Rep. Smola noted that it has been a fairly good budget year, with some challenges. There is some additional revenue coming into the budget. They are most concerned about the impact on the lottery, and how much money the state would get from casino gambling. Senator Gobi indicated that there is a budget shortfall, and said that

approximately \$22 million of the budget shortfall is due to less revenue from the casino than anticipated.

Rep. Smola said that the energy legislation will be fine tuned and will be significant for the people of Massachusetts. The third week of March is the deadline for legislative initiatives.

M. Suprenant said that the legislature has not voted in favor of the cap on charter schools. Senator Gobi said that on the Senate side, Rosenberg has set up caucuses. They are continuing to get that information. She felt that it will be contentious, and it will be interesting to see what happens in the upcoming weeks.

M. Dowling suggested increasing the amount of commuter train services from Worcester to Boston. She said that commuters going to Boston end up driving their cars to work. Senator Gobi said that Worcester will start an express train to Boston in the spring, and the inland route is gaining momentum. It will be an open discussion. Rep. Smola said that Palmer is between Worcester and Springfield, and at one time had rail services there, as did Warren. He noted that Sturbridge has an opportunity, and it could be attractive for a rail stop. He noted that it is a numbers game and part of the long term vision for transportation. He said that there is broad support for seeing the line expand, as it would provide services on many levels.

The Board thanked Senator Gobi and Representative Smola for meeting with them.

Public Hearing: Administrative Hearing on Alcohol Violation – Bentley Pub

M. Dowling read the legal ad into the record.

Police Chief Thomas Ford reviewed the alcohol compliance check process with the Board. He said that checks were conducted by members of the Police Department and a 17 year old operative on August 26, September 11 and September 15, 2015. Two establishments failed by not asking for an ID, and serving alcohol to the minor: Bentley Pub and Sturbridge Seafood.

On August 26, 2015 Officer Hillary DaDalt and Sgt. Larry Bateman conducted a check at Bentley pub, and the bartender served the operative a draft beer without asking to see an ID.

Paul Alward, Manager of Bentley Pub, appeared before the Board. He apologized for the violation at his establishment. He said that the bartender had been summoned to Dudley District Court, and she was suspended from her job for two weeks.

MOTION: To close the public hearing, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To find Bentley Pub of 362 Main Street to be in violation of the alcohol control laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to have their license to sell alcohol on the premises suspended for one day, to occur within the next 30 days, and to be coordinated by the Sturbridge Police Chief, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: Four in favor; C. Moran opposed.

Public Hearing: Administrative Hearing on Alcohol Violation – Sturbridge Seafood

M. Dowling read the legal ad into the record.

Police Chief Thomas Ford said that on August 26, 2015 Officer Hillary DaDalt and Sgt. Larry Bateman conducted an alcohol compliance check at Sturbridge Seafood, and the bartender served the operative a draft beer without asking to see an ID.

Ken Yukimura and Catherine Yukimura appeared before the Board. Ken Yukimura agreed with the facts, and said that the bartender had been a new hire, and was terminated following the incident.

MOTION: To close the public hearing, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To find Sturbridge Seafood of 376 Main Street to be in violation of the alcohol control laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to have their license to sell alcohol on the premises suspended for one day, to occur within the next 30 days, and to be coordinated by the Sturbridge Police Chief, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: Four in favor; C. Moran opposed.

Appointment of Police Officers

Police Chief Thomas Ford introduced the police officer candidates: Edward Page, Jr. and Sean Paine. He reviewed their resumes with the Board.

MOTION: To concur with the appointment of Edward Page, Jr. as a Sturbridge Police Officer effective October 20, 2015 at a starting rate of pay of \$27.72 per hour; and to concur with the appointment of Sean Paine as a Sturbridge Police Officer effective October 20, 2015 at a starting rate of pay of \$26.03 per hour, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Bob Staudinger: Request for Dock Permit

Bob Staudinger of 47 Mountain Brook Road appeared before the Board to seek a temporary dock permit for Cedar Lake. He explained that the dock will be six feet wide, to extend 25 feet into the lake.

MOTION: To grant a temporary dock permit to Bob Staudinger, 47 Mountain Brook Road, to be installed in the spring of 2016, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant.

Vote: All in favor.

Discussion on Regional Dispatch

Police Chief Thomas Ford and Fire Chief David Zinther appeared before the Board. L. Gaumond provided a synopsis of the Board's previous discussion regarding the possibility of entering into a regional dispatch program with neighboring towns. He said that the project could save the Town some money in the administration of this service and improve the service that the residents receive. He said that it may also help the Town tap into state and federal grants for the replacement of needed equipment.

M. Blanchard noted that at this time, the Board is not committing to anything other than the feasibility study. C. Moran asked whether it would be necessary to submit an application to look at this as a feasibility study. L. Gaumond said that he will have a good temperature of the Board of Selectmen when he prepares the letter.

M. Suprenant said that he is serious about pursuing regionalization. He said that the Board would need to know the facts before making a final commitment.

Chief Ford said that he had a copy of the guidelines and boilerplate language for the application.

MOTION: To move forward in pursuing the creation of a regional dispatch service for police and fire services and to authorize the Town Administrator to send a letter of support indicating interest in participating in the feasibility study for this project, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Reports

Greg Morse, DPW Director, reviewed his report with the Board. He said that the binder was done on Allen Road, and the top part will be finished tomorrow, then the New Boston Road section will be done.

G. Morse informed the Board that all of the DPW vehicles passed inspections except he older truck. He noted that the body of the 1997 dump truck is beyond repair.

G. Morse presented the plowing and sanding equipment bids for the winter of 2015-2016 to the Board for their approval.

MOTION: To approve #1 through #20 of the plowing and sanding bids, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To approve #1 through #14 of the fill-ins, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

G. Morse reviewed the Grinder Pump Policy with the Board. He said that the grinder pump can handle any wastewater that is normally discharged to the sewer from the kitchen, bathroom or laundry. He noted that it is advisable to check labels on chemicals prior to disposal. He warned never to connect a sump pump to sanitary plumbing.

G. Morse cautioned homeowners to avoid introducing foreign objects into the system. He identified foreign objects as anything other than normal sewage, toilet paper and garbage disposal throughput. He stressed that never should any of the following materials be put into sinks, toilets or drains: Glass, metal, wood and plastic, seafood shells, fish tank gravel, kitty litter, dental floss, diapers, baby wipes or general cleaning wipes, sanitary napkins or tampons, socks, rags or cloth of any kind, any strong chemicals, toxic, caustic or poisonous substances, gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinner, paint, antifreeze, lubricating oil or grease, cooking fat (lard, oil, grease) or degreasing solvents. He said that these materials can damage the grinder pump, cause blockages or may create unsafe conditions in home pipes and tank and lead to corrective service costs.

Shane Moody, Veolia Water North America, said that the Grinder Pump Policy will be mailed to those residents who have grinder pumps. L. Gaumont said that he would also post it on the Town's website.

S. Moody said that in situations of abuse, it is necessary to bring a septic hauler to the residence to clean the system and grinder pump. C. Moran suggested taking violators off the system. S. Moody noted that one person had ruined four grinder pumps; after that, they instituted some rules to prevent it from happening again.

M. Blanchard said that it is reasonable for safety issues. S. Moody said that they take it on a case by case basis. M. Dowling suggested including some stronger language to explain about consistent abuse. P. Gimás agreed, and suggested putting it in bold for emphasis.

M. Blanchard suggested adding language about seasonal sewer users. L. Gaumont said that the seasonal sewer users, by definition, would not be using the system from November through March. It is when the person is not going to be there. He will remove "that are not year round homes."

C. Moran suggested including the approximate cost of the pump and labor for replacement of it. G. Morse said that a new pump is \$2,000.

MOTION: To accept the Homeowner's Guide to Grinder Pumps as amended, by P. Gimás.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

S. Moody reviewed his report with the Board. C. Moran asked about the status of changing over the meters. S. Moody said that the readings have been done and a lot of the meters have complied.

S. Moody said that they are in the middle of flushing hydrants, and they will be winterized for safety reasons. He noted that they have replaced two hydrants. M. Suprenant requested information regarding pricing for rebuilding existing hydrants vs. replacing them with new hydrants.

S. Moody noted that they were the recipients of a fluoride award.

S. Moody said that a sanitary survey had been conducted by DEP, but they have not received the final report yet.

S. Moody said that the St. Anne's water tank had been cleaned. Leak detection was conducted, and only two leaks were found.

Public Hearing: Scott Gerrish, Logging Permit for Gay Road and Cedar Street

M. Dowling read the legal ad into the record.

Scott Gerrish appeared before the Board, along with owners Michael Steuer Sr. and Michael Steuer Jr. He requested a logging permit for 27 acres of land at Gay Road and Cedar Street. It had been reviewed by the Conservation Commission and they recommended approval of the permit.

S. Gerrish said that 25% of the trees will be cut. He noted that 12.4 acres are located in the Town of Sturbridge. Randy Vilandre will be the licensed harvester for the job.

MOTION: That the Board approve the logging permit request for Scott Gerrish on behalf of Michael Steuer of Brookfield, with the following conditions:

- **Logging operations shall be allowed Monday through Friday (with no harvesting on recognized Massachusetts legal holidays) from 7:00 a.m. to dusk, and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. noon; no Sunday or holiday hours.**
- **The applicant shall coordinate transportation with the Town's school bus schedule to avoid conflict between logging operations and school bus operations;**
- **Work shall not commence when the ground is soft;**

- **A \$5,000 road maintenance bond shall be submitted to the Town Administrator before starting work.**
- **A licensed timber harvester is identified prior to commencement.**
- **The haul route is identified prior to commencement if it goes through Sturbridge.**
- **The DPW Director should be notified before starting work.**

by Priscilla Gimas.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: All in favor.

S. Gerrish commented that no other town requires loggers to send a certified mailing to abutters within 200 feet, nor do they require the permit itself and the time of going before the Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen. M. Blanchard said that these requirements are in the Town bylaws as voted on at Town Meeting. She said that the conditions set by the Board are not excessive. M. Dowling added that legal entanglements are avoided because of this process.

Department Head Report

Melissa Beauchemin, Council on Aging Director, reviewed her report with the Board. She said that Leslie Wong was granted five extra hours, which is greatly appreciated.

M. Beauchemin said that they have 22 volunteers working at the Senior Center who provide valuable services. She provided the Board with a list of recent and new programming and notable happenings at the Senior Center, including the Health Fair with 28 vendors, which was a great success. She said that students from Tantasqua High School have been helping the seniors with electrical work, and 11 young men had assisted with the tag sale. At the flu clinic recently held at the Senior Center, 75 flu shots were administered within two hours.

M. Beauchemin informed the Board that two gentlemen had purchased a new pool table for the Senior Center, which is a popular item.

M. Suprenant said that he had attended the "Welcome Back to Snellville" event for former students who had attended the school. Bob Briere had presented the history of the school. WBZ radio had once given a Christmas show from Snellville School. Letters had been received from all over the country after that show, as it had been broadcasted on national radio.

C. Moran commented that M. Beauchemin is doing an excellent job.

Sturbridge Senior Center Steering Committee: Survey Results

Ken White, Chairman of the Senior Center Steering Committee, and Sue Grandone, Vice-Chairman appeared before the Board. K. White said that on July 6th they had met with the Board and presented their mission statement and plan to create a survey to address the needs of the senior citizens. He said that on July 27th they mailed out 1600 surveys, and received 236 by the September 1st deadline. He said that the data received was compiled and put onto Excel spreadsheets. It was a major undertaking and required many hours of work.

K. White said that there is inadequate parking at the Senior Center, with only 19 parking spaces available, which is a problem during special events. There is no off site parking within the vicinity of the Senior Center. He noted that the broken driveway pavement makes it difficult for those with canes and walkers.

K. White said that meals are served daily for about 8-10 people for a small donation; however, many seniors do not like these meals. He said that the Roving Restaurant charges \$3/meal for 25-30 people once or twice a month. These meals must be ordered, money collected, some meals picked up, meals served, and cleanup. He noted that the seniors are interested in getting a commercial kitchen at the Center.

Regarding space issues, K. White said that when a class is in progress, people must walk through the room to get to another area, which is disruptive to the class.

K. White said that some seniors need day care services. Senior Center staff cannot provide medical assistance. The purpose of the Senior Center is to help people over the age of 60 to stay active mentally and physically. He said that it is time to think about the senior citizens, who have helped to make this town as great as it is.

P. Gimas said that there is also a large group who are not yet attending. She said that there needs to be a feasibility study to see what can be done at the Senior Center. She suggested that a subcommittee be formed, to include members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. M. Blanchard said that a feasibility study would be the best way to get professional input. She noted that additions and renovations would require an appropriation at Town Meeting. P. Gimas said that she would like to see a warrant article at the next Special Town Meeting to address this matter.

M. Dowling said that she would favor a study by a professional engineering firm. She said that 50% of the residents who had replied are not current users of the Senior Center. Sue Grandone said that some of the seniors are still working. She noted that

the responses showed a great interest in the Senior Center, and that they will use it. K. White added that the Senior Center would really be overcrowded if all of the seniors were using it.

M. Blanchard said that some people may become incapacitated enough so that they will no longer be able to participate. M. Beauchemin said that it is a fact of life. M. Suprenant suggested asking the Town Administrator to look into how much a feasibility study would cost. L. Gaumont said that he would add it to his list, and asked the Board if they would like to choose the architect, or have him do it. He said that he would prepare a Request for Proposals to seek architectural firms to assist in the study. He said that it would cost approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000.

K. White said that the staff is doing a terrific job at the Senior Center. He thanked P. Gimas for all of her help.

M. Beauchemin asked whether the feasibility study would include where the staff would go during renovation. L. Gaumont said that it would be difficult to incorporate that into the RFP.

P. Gimas said that the master plan indicated a need for a community center. She thanked the Steering Committee for their hard work, and the great job they did within three months.

Town Administrator's Update

- **Resignation of Police Officer**

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Officer Christopher Dumas from the Police Department, by M. Dowling.

2nd: P. Gimas.

Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant abstained.

- **Hotelier vacancy on STA**

L. Gaumont informed the Board that there is a hotelier vacancy on the STA, and he will reach out to people.

Correspondence

M. Dowling read the correspondence list into the record.

Old Business

October 19, 2015

M. Dowling asked about the award presentation at the State House for Penny Dumas. L. Gaumond said that two people from the Town had attended, and said that it was lovely.

New Business

There was no new business.

MOTION: To adjourn, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date