

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2013**

Present: Thomas Creamer, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas
Mary Blanchard
Mary Dowling
Mary Redetzke
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator

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

Public Service Announcements

T. Creamer announced that he and P. Gimas will organize a free of charge Thanksgiving Dinner at the Senior Center. Seniors who are interested in participating should call 774-230-5572 by November 15th to register for the event.

M. Redetzke expressed thanks to the two Tantasqua Regional High School students who had helped with the book sale.

M. Redetzke expressed thanks to the Trails volunteers for their work.

M. Dowling expressed thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, Sturbridge Tourist Association and everyone who had helped with the Harvest Festival event.

Robin Lataille – Organ Donation

Robin Lataille appeared before the Board to speak about the New England Organ Donor Bank, which can be contacted at: www.donatelife.org. She had taken part in Team USA in the Transplant Games in South Africa.

Police Officer Appointment: Christopher Dumas

Christopher Dumas' credentials along with Chief Ford's recommendation had been submitted to the Board. Mr. Dumas was a ranking finalist in a prior police officer search and, upon learning of the opening, sought employment with the Town. Since his initial resume was submitted, he completed his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Quinsigamond Community College. He has worked as a police officer in Northampton, and most recently Mendon, and would like to settle down closer to home and work in Sturbridge. S. Suhoski recommended that the Board ratify his appointment.

MOTION: To ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Christopher Dumas of Grafton to the position of Patrol Officer in the Police Department effective October 21, 2013 at the rate of \$24.47 per hour with a six-month probationary period in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Veritas Restaurant – Alteration of Premises

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the owner had requested an extension to complete permitting. Veritas received their catering license from the Board of Health but additional building, health and fire code compliance is required for the out-building. Their prior tent permit has expired and there is no additional tent permit request pending.

It was the consensus of the Board that a Common Victualler license be required for the additional premises.

MOTION: To continue the hearing on Veritas Restaurant's alteration of premises application to November 18, 2013 at 6:35 p.m., by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Department Head Reports

Greg Morse, DPW Director, reviewed his report with the Board. He requested the Board's approval of the list of Plowing and Sanding Equipment Bids for the Winter of 2013-2014.

MOTION: That the Board approve the list of Plowing and Sanding Equipment Bids for the Winter of 2013-2014 as outlined in the DPW Director's memo of October 11, 2013 and the email dated October 15, 2013, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: All in favor.

Shane Moody, Veolia Water North America, reviewed his report with the Board. He noted that hydrant flushing should be completed by the end of the week, and they will be winterized next week. All of the east side hydrants have been painted. He requested that the Board award the Cold Water Meter Replacement Program Bid to Stiles Company, Inc. of Norwood, MA.

MOTION: That the Board award the Cold Water Meter Replacement Program Bid to Stiles Company, Inc. of Norwood, MA in

accordance with their bid dated September 19, 2013, by M. Redetzke.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

It was the consensus of the Board to initiate a review of the Town's sewer regulations, including E-1 grinder pump policy, seasonal shut-off and pricing.

Melissa Beauchemin, Council on Aging Director, reviewed her report with the Board. She provided the Board with a list of activities taking place at the Senior Center.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct the Town Administrator to look into obtaining a van for the Senior Center/Council on Aging. The Board requested that the Town Administrator provide a parking policy with respect to the Senior Center due to private entities utilizing the Senior Center parking lot and occasionally interfering with Senior Center functions. The Board requested that the Town Administrator review the exterior lighting at the Senior Center, as the Board felt it was dim and unsafe.

Sturbridge Mobil – Common Victualler License

A request for a Common Victualler license had been submitted by Sturbridge Mobil, but the owner was not present. It was the consensus of the Board to continue the matter to November 4, 2013.

Application for a Taxi/Livery License – Christopher Ducharme

Christopher Ducharme submitted an application for a Taxi/Livery Driver License. He will be working for Charles River Service. Police Chief Thomas Ford had reviewed and approved the application.

MOTION: To approve the Taxi/Livery Driver License for Christopher Ducharme, by M. Redetzke.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Emergency Operations Plan Presentation

Consultant John Degnan and Police Chief Thomas Ford presented the Emergency Operations Plan to the Board. The final draft update for the all-hazards Emergency Operations Plan was completed and distributed electronically with the Executive Summary portion hard copied to the Board.

S. Suhoski said that he, Chief Ford and department heads all participated in the development of information and plan components as coordinated by Mr. Degnan and funded through a grant from MIIA, the Town's insurer.

MOTION: That the Board reaffirm its commitment and adoption of NIMS/ICS as noted in Item #2 of the Emergency Operations Plan update, by T. Creamer.

2nd: M. Redetzke

Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: That the Board direct the Town Administrator to present cost estimates for the electrical upgrades at Town Hall and the Center Office Building to accommodate portable generators as noted in Item #9 of the Emergency Operations Plan update, by M. Dowling.

2nd: T. Creamer

Vote: All in favor.

Appointment of Alan K. Jones as Part-Time Data Collector

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the Town had received 11 applications for this part-time, non-benefitted position. The Principal Assessor reviewed all applications and narrowed the field to four candidates with either real estate or construction experience that were granted preliminary interviews. The Assessor then brought three semi-finalists to the Board of Assessors for public interviews. The Board of Assessors unanimously recommended Alan Jones as the preferred selection. S. Suhoski personally interviewed Mr. Jones on October 3rd and was impressed with his demeanor and strong work ethic. His background is in the construction field, and he previously had a career in computer networking.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Alan K. Jones of Sturbridge to the part-time position of Data Collector in the Assessing Department at the hourly rate of \$18.33 (Grade 7, Step 5) and subject to satisfactory CORI and a six-month probationary period, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 16, 2013 as amended, by M. Redetzke.

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor.

