

April 21, 2016

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2016**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas
Mary Dowling
Craig Moran
Michael Suprenant
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator
Barbara Barry, Finance Director

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget

Barbara Barry, Finance Director, requested the Board's approval of an additional amount of \$5,318 for line #7 for a total of \$49,101 to cover sick leave payback and unpaid vacation time for an employee's pending retirement.

MOTION: To reconsider line #7, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent

MOTION: To approve the new figure of \$49,101, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

L. Gaumond informed the Board that the Finance Committee is still doing due diligence.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Article 51: Transfer of Funds – Water Miscellaneous Expenses

MOTION: To place and support Article 51, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Article 50: Caron Road & Valley Road Betterment Project

L. Gaumond explained that this article is for drainage and road improvements for Caron Road and Valley Road.

C. Moran said that some trees will be removed. He noted that it is getting difficult for the ambulance and fire trucks to get down the road. The article states

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“drainage.” L. Gaumond said that the only time the Town can be involved with a project like this is when drainage is involved. If there is a question about drainage, he offered to get the answer to that before the Board votes on the article. M. Blanchard said that the Board could always reopen the article. M. Dowling suggested that the Board vote to place the article..

MOTION: To place Article 50 on the warrant, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Article 48: Water Reserve Fund Request

MOTION: To place and support Article 48, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

MOTION: To close the Special Town Meeting Warrant, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

L. Gaumond informed the Board that the school has reserved Tantasqua High School auditorium for the nights of June 6th and 7th, in the event that Town Meeting goes two nights.

Article 1: Town Reports

MOTION: To place and support Article 1, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Article 2: Community Preservation Committee Report

MOTION: To place and support Article 2, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

M. Suprenant arrived at 8:55 a.m.

Article 3: Community Preservation – Town Records Restoration

MOTION: To place and support Article 3, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 4: Community Preservation – North Cemetery

MOTION: To place and support Article 4, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 5: Community Preservation – Historic Resource Survey

B. Barry explained that this is a phased project; there will be more than 100 properties to do, but up to 100 will be done this year. There is not enough money to allocate it all in one year.

MOTION: To place and support Article 5, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 6: Community Preservation --- Trail Development Work

MOTION: To place and support Article 6, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 7: Community Preservation – Administration

MOTION: To place and support Article 7, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 8: Road Construction, Repairs and Maintenance

MOTION: To place and support Article 8, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 9: Revaluation/Interim Adjustments

MOTION: To place and support Article 9, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 10: PEG Access and Cable Related Fund Acceptance

L. Gaumond explained that the state has changed the way that municipalities handle this in their budgets.

MOTION: To place and support Article 10, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Article 11: Town Budget

MOTION: To place and support Article 11, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Four in favor; M. Suprenant was absent.

Article 12: Water Department

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MOTION: To place and support Article 12, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 13: Sewer Department

MOTION: To place and support Article 13, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 14: Public Access Department

MOTION: To place and support Article 14, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor.

Article 15: Sewer Project Debt

MOTION: To place and support Article 15, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 16: Community Preservation Debt Service

MOTION: To place and support Article 16, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 17: Revolving Funds

MOTION: To amend HazMat Cleanup from \$10,000 to \$20,000, by C. Moran.
2nd: M. Dowling
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To place and support Article 17 as amended, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor.

Article 18: Sturbridge Tourist Association

C. Moran said that Jim Donohue at Old Sturbridge Village had told him that their Board of Directors does not want to do any more 20-year leases. C. Moran stressed the need to have public rest rooms at the Information Center on Route 20. P. Gimas did not think that the Town should continue to pay for the rest rooms, and considered them to be a liability. M. Dowling said that since the rest rooms already exist and the Town owns the building, they should be maintained. P. Gimas said that if that is OSV land, OSV can do anything they want with it. She suggested discussing the matter with Jim Donohue. M. Blanchard said that if the Board would like L. Gaumond to have discussions with Jim Donohue, that would be fine. She noted that the lease expires in October. She suggested

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putting an article on the Special Town Meeting, if necessary. C. Moran noted that OSV has no plans for the building right now. L. Gaumond has already outreached to Jim Donohue to set up a meeting with him to discuss plans for the rest rooms.

MOTION: To place and support Article 18, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor.

Article 19: Betterment Committee

C. Moran asked if more money would be needed for Jersey barriers to block off the road at the Town Common. L. Gaumond said that Greg Morse did not think that would be needed.

L. Gaumond noted that the Betterment Committee honored about \$151,000 of the requests.

MOTION: To place and support Article 19, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 20: Capital Improvement Plan

L. Gaumond said that the condition of the parking lot at the Senior Center is dangerous. The building will continue to be maintained as a Town asset. He noted that the results of the feasibility study will inform the Board of the full situation. C. Moran suggested that L. Gaumond monitor the report.

L. Gaumond said that Town vehicles should be inspected to see if there could be an alternate use for them within the fleet, which could reduce the fleet costs. He is in favor of making an evaluation of them each year. B. Barry suggested that firefighters who are going to training could use former police cruisers for transportation. She noted that inspectional vehicles are being used by many department heads. She stressed the importance of having a reliable vehicle for the use of the Building Inspector and Board of Health Agent.

Regarding the Senior Center parking lot, M. Dowling suggested an interim repaving project so that it would no longer be at a critical situation. L. Gaumond said that even slight imperfections in the parking lot at the Senior Center create difficulties. He discussed the matter with Greg Morse, and if band aid temporary fixes are needed, they will do so.

MOTION: To place and support Article 20, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 21: Betterment Payoffs – Dissolving of Betterment

MOTION: To place and support Article 21, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 22: Ambulance Stabilization Fund

MOTION: To place and support Article 22, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 23: OPEB Trust Fund

MOTION: To place and support Article 23, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 24: Tax Rate Relief

MOTION: To place and support Article 24, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 25: Acceptance of MGL Chapter 41, Section 108P

MOTION: To place and support Article 25, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 26: Town Barn Field Project

L. Gaumond said that there is a need to seek a debt exclusion, which will require passage at Town Meeting. Waterfield Design Group had come up with an estimate of \$6.3 million for this project. P. Gimas expressed concern about the number of projects going on at one time, and their effect on the tax rates. She suggested the possibility of it being a multi-year project. M. Blanchard said that it is a continuum. She said that a project like this is a whole project, laid out and done as one project.

M. Dowling said that a recreational field study had been done in 2006. Now it is more expensive than it was a few years ago. She noted that it will cost \$2 million for ledge removal.

B. Barry said that everything that is proposed to be funded leaves the Town with \$1.3 million in free cash. L. Gaumond added that the Town will be getting new certification in free cash in July, so at the end of July or August the Town will be flush with free cash again.

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M. Blanchard noted that on the cost of the fields, the Town is fortunate to have hotel/motel tax and meals tax revenue.

P. Gimas suggested having a substitute motion ready for a phased project. M. Dowling said that the Board has the duty to put it before Town Meeting because the Town had authorized the design of the fields and the money was spent on it.

MOTION: To place and support Article 26 as written, by M. Dowling.

The motion was not seconded.

MOTION: To place Article 26, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Article 27: Police Boat

MOTION: To place and support Article 27, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 28: Open Space Trail Guide

MOTION: To place and support Article 28, by P. Gimas.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: All in favor.

Article 29: Public Safety Building Feasibility Study

L. Gaumond did not have a good number to provide to the Board; the Board could insert a "not to exceed" number, or delay this article until the Special Town Meeting in the fall. P. Gimas suggested it be included on the Annual Town Meeting warrant; if it is done in the fall, it would be that much longer that things are not being done to the building, and repairs could cost more later on. M. Blanchard agreed. She suggested a "not to exceed" number of \$40,000.

MOTION: To place and support Article 29, with a number not to exceed \$40,000 by M. Suprenant.
2nd: M. Blanchard
Vote: All in favor.

Article 30: Public Works Building Feasibility Study

MOTION: To increase the number to \$40,000 for Article 30, by M. Suprenant.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To place and support Article 30, by M. Suprenant.

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2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Article 31: Zoning Bylaw – Telecommunications
MOTION: To place and support Article 31, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 32: Amendment to the Zoning Map
MOTION: To place and support Article 32 by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 33: Amendment to the Zoning Map
MOTION: To place and support Article 33, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 34: Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws
MOTION: To place and support Article 34, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 35: Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws
MOTION: To place and support Article 35, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 36: Amendments to the Zoning Bylaws
MOTION: To place and support Article 36, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 37: Amendment to General Bylaws – False Alarms
MOTION: To place and support Article 37, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 38: Amendment to the General Bylaws – Sturbridge Tourist Association

C. Moran suggested holding action until L. Gaumond meets with Jim Donohue at Old Sturbridge Village. L. Gaumond said that the rest rooms will be funded at least until October.

MOTION: To place and support Article 38, by P. Gimas.

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2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Four in favor; C. Moran abstained.

Article 39: Request for Special Act of the Legislature Concerning the Sturbridge Conservation Commission

MOTION: To place and support Article 39, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 40: Amendment to General Bylaws – Forest Harvesting

P. Gimas noted that no logging application would come before the Board unless the applicant requests it. She asked where abutters could have the opportunity to speak. L. Gaumond said that the Board provides reasonable conditions on permits issued by the state. Abutters would be referred to the state, not the Town. He said that this is an attempt to get the Board out of the process.

C. Moran said that every time an application is granted by the state, residents have problems with it. He was in favor of placing the article, then letting the general public decide.

M. Blanchard said that the Board has been inundated with concerns that are not within the Board's purview. She said that the forester sends out notices with his contact information, so anyone who has a question could contact him. She noted that the only thing that the Board can do is place conditions on the project. She would place and support the article.

M. Dowling agreed with C. Moran. She did not want to eliminate the process altogether. She said that there are sometimes special circumstances, such as the day care issue. P. Gimas agreed.

M. Suprenant said that to make the process fair to the abutters, if there are objections by the abutters, then it should come before the Board of Selectmen. M. Dowling suggested adding a paragraph that residents could still come before the Board of Selectmen if they are not satisfied with the conditions.

L. Gaumond suggested bringing this article forward at a Special Town Meeting later on.

MOTION: To remove Article 40, and consider it at a Special Town Meeting later this year, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: All in favor.

Article 41: Route 148 / Brookfield Road Rehabilitation Project

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C. Moran asked whether there would be a land taking for the sidewalk. L. Gaumond said that he would research this further and give the Board more answers regarding the scope of the project. He requested that the Board place the article.

P. Gimas suggested the number of \$15,000.

MOTION: To place and support Article 41, with the number of \$15,000, by M. Dowling.
2nd: P. Gimas
Vote: All in favor.

Article 42: Amendment to the Tantasqua Regional School District Agreement

MOTION: To place and support Article 42, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 43: Amendment to the Tantasqua Regional School District Agreement

MOTION: To place and support Article 43, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 44: Amendment to the Tantasqua Regional School District Agreement

MOTION: To place and support Article 44, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: All in favor.

Article 45: Petitioned Article – Amendment to the General Bylaws – Demolition Delay

M. Dowling expressed concern about taking down a historic building.

MOTION: To place Article 45, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: Four in favor; C. Moran abstained.

Article 46: Petitioned Article – Exhibition Hall

MOTION: To place and support Article 46, by M. Dowling.
2nd: M. Suprenant
Vote: Three in favor; P. Gimas and M. Blanchard opposed.

MOTION: To close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran

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Vote: All in favor.

MOTION: To adjourn, by P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: All in favor.

P. Gimas wished a Happy Easter to the Christian orthodox residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date