

**Board of Selectmen
January 3, 2022
Town Hall
Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall
308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chair
Mary Dowling, Vice Chair
Selectman Chase Kaitbenski, Clerk
Selectman Ian Dunnigan
Selectman Jamie Goodwin

Staff:

Robert Reed, Interim Town Administrator
Michelle Garman, Executive Assistant

Chair Blanchard called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Blanchard read the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

No public service announcements

Moment of Silence

For those affected by Covid-19

Public Hearing

Old Sturbridge Village, Inc. – Change of Manager from Lisa Anne Hartigan to Michael Edward Heenan.

Michael Heenan gave a brief description of his background he is currently the Executive Chef at Old Sturbridge Village he worked there approximately three and a half years.

No questions from the Board.

Chair Blanchard confirmed Mr. Heenan was TIP Certified to safe serve alcohol.

Motion: Motion to approve change in manager application by Old Sturbridge Village to Michael Edward Heenan

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

5-0-0

Motion: To close public hearing

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

All in favor

5-0-0

Action Items:

Consideration and possible appointment of a Department Head to serve on the ARPA Sub-Committee.

Ken Lacey, Board of Health Agent, stated the reason for the federal funding through ARPA is for public health. Mr. Lacey stated his Board stated the best way to represent public health was from him to be on the ARPA Sub-Committee.

No questions from the Board.

Robin Chrabasz, Facilities Manager, stated she has been a part of the Town team for approximately two years now and she feels this is a good opportunity for her to jump in and help. Ms. Chrabasz stated she has a good view on what the different departments needs may be and she can offer some background and assistance.

Chair Blanchard asked Ms. Chrabasz if she has seen the list of suggestions from residents.

Ms. Chrabasz stated she has not seen a specific list she has heard of some suggestions, she has made some suggestions and she has seen the general summary.

Selectmen Goodwin stated he sees that there is need for both candidates one from a Maintenance/Facilities point of view and one from the Public Health point of view to be on the committee. Could the committee be expanded to include both candidates.

All Board members agreed that both candidates should be on the ARPA Sub-Committee.

Motion: Motion to appoint Ken Lacey and Robin Chrabasz to the ARPA Sub-Committee

By: Selectman Goodwin

2nd: Vice Chair Dowling

All in favor

Vote: 5-0-0

Vice Chair Dowling suggested the State Government contracted with Towns to be able to purchase rapid home COVID tests at a discounted rate. She would like to discuss if maybe the Town would like to purchase some of the tests that are being offered at the discounted rate so that we can offer at no costs to our residents.

Review of Debt Schedule for the Senior Center Renovation Project

Chair Blanchard advised this needs to be posted on the website and social media she gave a brief description of the schedule and median home value.

No questions from the Board.

Chair Blanchard read “Based on the attached schedule and a median home value of \$341,829 the increase to the average home tax bill would be \$1.77 in FY23, \$14.15 in FY24, \$73.42 in FY25 and then once the project is totally bonded \$229.93 in FY26. The annual debt payments then begin to decline slightly over the full life of the bond which will twenty (20) years.”

Selectmen Dunnigan suggested this be made available for voters to view.

Old Business:

Selectman Kaitbenski asked if the Board is going to interview the Town Administrator Search Committee applicants.

Chair Blanchard stated the Board has their choice of interviewing or just going by what the applicants send in via their resume or letter of interest. Currently there are five candidates.

Selectman Dunnigan said he does not feel the need to interview.

Selectman Kaitbenski said he feel that if someone expressed interest that maybe the Board should interview them.

Vice Chair Dowling said if the applicants want to come in and address the Board they should be given that option.

Selectman Goodwin stated he agrees with Vice Chair Dowling the applicants should have the opportunity if they would like to address the Board.

COVID 19

Vice Chair Dowling stated that Mr. Reed had made a recommendation for a mask mandate. With the COVID numbers so high, she was wondering if the Board has reconsidered a possible

mask mandate. Vice Chair Dowling stated that according to the news the positivity rate in Massachusetts is just shy of twenty percent.

Mr. Reed stated there was some concern in the past week due to the number of positive cases with Town employees. Mr. Reed stated that the Towns that are not closing Town buildings are at least having a mask mandate for Town buildings.

Chair Blanchard stated she has no problem of mandating mask.

Selectman Goodwin agreed he has no problem with a mask mandate and if employees have the option to work from home if they are not feeling well that is also an option.

Motion for a mask mandate in all town offices for a duration of two weeks starting January 3, 2022 until January 18, 2022.

By: Vice Chair Dowling

2nd: Selectman Goodwin

All in favor

5-0-0

Mr. Reed advised that the Senior Center is postponing all events until January 18, 2022.

New Business

No new business

Correspondence

News Letter from The Dirt letter from the President

Vice Chair Dowling stated the Home of the Brave Road Race brought in approximately \$6,000.00.

Citizen's Forum

No comments from the audience

Adjourn:

Motion: To Adjourn

By: Selectman Goodwin

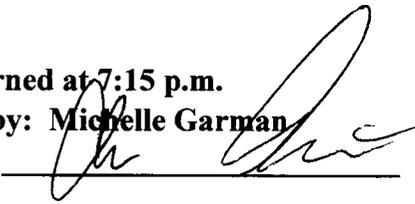
2nd: Selectman Kaitbenski

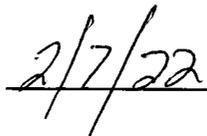
All in Favor

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman

Clerk of the Board: 

Date signed: 

2/7/22