

Town of Brimfield
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, 21 Main Street
Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2018

Present: Chair; Paul McCarthy, Vice Chair; Michele-Lee Shea, member; Paul Vandal, member; Ryan Olszta; member; Carolyn Haley

Absent, Admin; Carol Camerota

Others: Police Chief; Charles Kuss, Fire Chief; Brendan McCarthy, Food Inspector; Ron Woolhouse, Charlton agent; Jim Philbrook, COA; Eva Pittsinger, BOH; Karen Marino, Accountant; Marie Arsenault, Building Commissioner; Casey Burlingame, ZBA; Mike MacFadden and Kevin Moore, George Adams, Jack Riddle, Rec Committee; Rusty Corriveau and Crystal McGuire, Kimberly Elliott, John Fields and Bob Datz.

Cable recording: B. Datz

(McCarthy) called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Payroll & Warrants:

Board reviewed and signed payroll and warrants.

Accountant:

Board signed retainer for Bond Counsel and signed year end transfers previously signed by Finance. Housekeeping for deficits in each department.

Minutes:

Review and approve minutes of July 23, 2018.

Motion #18-229: by (Vandal) move to approve minutes of July 23, 2018 as written, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Review & Action:

Bed & Breakfast complaint regarding licensing:

Joint with various members from Board of Health, ZBA, Building Commissioner, Fire and Police.

C. Burlingame briefed the board on the Bed and Breakfast operating as Abigail's Nest at 94 Five Bridge Road. It is being advertised on line also as a venue/function hall which he put a cease and desist on after a complaint was received and had zoning and fire concerns.

K. Elliott, owner of Abigail's Nest was told that if it was an air b & b then she did not need any licenses. Fire Department told her if she did not have a sign then they wouldn't inspect. She has an innkeepers insurance. Her neighbor told her if the cease and desist did not come certified then she should tear it up. She is not trying to hide anything.

R. Woolhouse explained that events would require a commercial kitchen and he has not received any application yet.

C. Haley in her own experience told the board that air b & b does not issue any licenses. All licensing should be within the municipality.

J. Philbrook added that depending on what is going on at the address will determine what licenses she should have. The Building Commissioner needs to inspect to see what type of business she has.

Discussion ensued of applications and what she was told she needed or didn't need. The goal for today is to get her on the right track.

C. Burlingame said because she is in residential zone she should have ZBA determine whether her use is permissible or not.

ZBA, M. MacFadden concurred with C. Burlingame that bylaw 3.2.4 for renting is for not more than 4 people in a residential /agricultural district. However she can appeal this decision.

Fire Chief McCarthy stated that having a venue and B & B is a whole different process than air b & b. He had concerns with her not having sprinklers or exit signs. His suggestion was that until every department is on board the cease and desist should hold.

She was reminded by the Chair and Building Commissioner that if she is not functioning as an air b & b then she needs to follow the town's bylaws and not have more than 4 people. She should approach the Building Commissioner with her desires and go from there. While the cease and desist is still in place she should not be conducting business at all.

It was also mentioned that advertising on her website might be in violation and if she rents to more than 4 people now there could be fines and a court order.

Discuss Air Conditioning for the Sr. Center:

George Adams from the Congregational Church came before the board to discuss the need for air conditioning in the Sr. Center. (Vandal) said estimates have been given and it is up to the church now on how they would like to proceed. The church itself is not looking for air conditioning but the Sr. Center has requested it. The church is happy to have provided the Sr. Center with a space. The church would like direction from the town and are currently getting more quotes.

E. Pittsinger said the staff and seniors are living in this hot and humid environment adding some seniors can't come because of lack of air conditioning.

J. Riddle who is on finance and properties at the church understands the town's responsibilities and said the church has its own to the congregation. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Rec Committee 5k Crush Run:

Rusty Corriveau and Crystal McGuire from the Rec Committee are requesting approval for a 5k run on October 7, 2018 beginning on Mill Lane at 11:00 am and ending at Brimfield Winery. There will be food trucks and music. The Police Chief

explained his department's procedure for the safety for those attending. BOH will be contacted.

Motion #18-230: by (McCarthy) move to approve the 5k crush run for the rec committee, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

John Fields - speed limit on corner of Rt. 20 and Holland Rd:

J. Fields came to the board with a complaint about the speed of traffic on "Dead Man's Curve" Rt. 20 where Holland Road splits off. He gave an oversight of his brewery project and the traffic. Driveway cuts necessary from MaDOT ultimately resulted in it not being a feasible location for his business.

Police are patrolling that corner but do not have the manpower or the hours to dedicate to that one location. The board suggested he also call the State Police or MaDOT about the traffic.

Discuss Cable Grant:

(McCarthy) explained that much of the cable equipment is out dated.

Approximately \$60,000 is needed to upgrade to the fiber optic. Use of the cable grant funds to upgrade the connection to the town hall would be about \$300 a month and would help the internet and phones. The Accountant thought it would be potentially useful. He also spoke with the cable company about the grant funds and would like to approve using these funds for expenditures.

B. Datz; Public Access Coordinator explained that the PEG related funds should not be used for non-related PEG use. As it stands now all systems will die within 5 years. He does not have a lot of contingency money and has repairs and replacement to equipment and needed upgrades to the high def channels. Currently there is \$71,000 in the budget. Continued discussion of current cable usage and internet needs in order to connect to the fiber.

(McCarthy) stated that the use of PEG (Public Education Government) funds is not out of the realm of use. A quote is still needed before he can present anything to the board. B. Datz would like to have more conversations regarding this topic with IT and Charter. The board agreed and will set something up.

B. Datz asked about use of the closet in the Annex for his equipment.

Auction Permit:

Crown Auctions has applied for an Auction Permit to be held at Hertan's, Sept. 4th, 4pm to 7pm.

Motion #18-231: by (McCarthy) move to approve auction permit for Crown Auctions, LLC to be held at Hertan's September 4th from 4pm to 7pm, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Use of Town Hall:

Sr. Center is requesting use of the town hall on Friday, March 15, 2019 for a Sarah the Fiddler concert. Board approved.

Annual Common Victualler's:

Motion #18-232: by (McCarthy) move to approve Annual Common Victualler Licenses for Curt Jameson, Lion's Club at Hitchcock Academy and Bird's Nest-Michael Leverone, Worcester, MA, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Chair to sign authorization for worker's comp information access (MEGA):

(McCarthy) signed access authorization.

Appointments:

Motion #18-233: by (McCarthy) to approve appointments for Council on Aging: Tony Bys and Theresa LaBombard until June 30, 2021.
Recreation Committee: Crystal McGuire, Rusty Corriveau, Kim Donze, Diana Landry and Laurie Krusas until June 30, 2019
Electrical Inspector: Scot Mansfield until June 30, 2019
Historical Commission: Mike DeFalco and Mark Connors until June 30, 2021, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Board signed previously approved appointments for M. MacFadden and K. Moore

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Animal Control Officer:

(Olszta) brought up a dog incident that happened several weeks ago and ended up being handled by the Wales dog officer. Brimfield's officer failed to respond and was unaware of the incident. He has not been reappointed at this point and perhaps the board should consider looking for a replacement. The position should be posted and he also suggested reconfiguring the payment schedule for this position.

Holland Road complaint:

K. Marino wanted to address complaints received about 51 Holland Road and the garbage and debris that is piling up around this house. There is no mechanism for enforcement in town. Is there a way to initiate the process?

(McCarthy) suggested similar to permit pro a chain of procedure should be there to follow. He is looking into a State program to address blight.

Motion #18-234: by (Shea) move to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., seconded by (Olszta), all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

August 20, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Camerota

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: *Paul McCarr* DATE: *8/20/2018*

Documents Utilized for this meeting

MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

1. Yearend transfers
2. Locke & Lord Bond letter
3. Minutes of July 23, 2018
4. Documents for Abigail's Nest
5. Congregational Church lease
6. Request for use of town hall
7. Cable grant emails
8. Appointment letter
9. Auction License