

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck called the meeting to order.

First on the agenda was the continuation of the Special Permit Hearing to consider the application of David A. Brause for property located at 82 Interlaken Road owned by BRITESTAR OMEGA LLC SERIES B C/O THE CORPORATION TR CO CORP TR CENTER. Chuck made a motion to open the meeting. Patrick seconded; all were in favor. Lori Robbins, the applicant's attorney, spoke on the application. She said that he Brauses are under contract to buy three lots and use one to build a family compound. The lot currently has a small home which they would like to replace. The plans before the Select Board are the revised plans received on February 25, 2021. The lot is fully compliant aside from the rear yard setback requirements (150 feet) being on the Stockbridge Bowl. It is before the Board as it is pre-existing non-conforming. The Brauses have been approved for demolition of the previous house, have met with the Conservation Commission and have had their notice of intent approved, have met with the Planning Board and have revised some of the plans; moving the pool and accessory structure out of the LPOD. As a result of this, the Planning Board approved their special permit. After reviewing the plans, Attorney Robbins asked that the Board approve a permit for the expansion of a pre-existing non-conforming with the only non-conformity being the rear set back. With no comment from the public, Chuck made a motion to accept the special permit for 82 Interlaken Road. Roxanne seconded. Vote: I Patrick, I Chuck, I Roxanne.

Next, the Board took action on minutes of 2/11/21, 2/18/21 and 2/25/21. Chuck made a motion that they accept the minutes of those meetings. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

The Board then went into a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. In attendance from the Finance Committee: Jay Bikofsky, Jim Balfanz, Pam Boudreau, Neil Holden, Diane Reuss, Steve Shatz, and Bill Vogt. Jay Bikofsky asked the Finance Committee for approval of the 2/25/21 meeting minutes. Steve moved and it was seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Jim Balfanz: I, Pam Boudreau: I, Neil Holden: I, Diane Reuss: I, Steve Shatz: I, Bill Vogt: abstain, Jay: yes.

Jay explained that they would be discussing capital requests as well as the operating budget for the Highway and Fire Departments.

Beginning with the Highway Department Jay noted that there was a reduction of \$75,709 in the salary line for personnel; much relates to vacant position of the superintendent. Expenses were level funded for FY22. Patrick asked if there were any requirements that we have a highway superintendent and Mike said there was not but all duties from that position currently fall to the highway foreman. With no further comments, Jay moved on to the Capital request for a Ford 650 large truck which is a replacement plow vehicle; which run approximately \$145,000. Mike noted that with a projected truck fleet, every five years they will look to replacing a vehicle; with a five-year note cycle the budget would remain level. Jay mentioned the option of using free cash. Steve noted that the Finance Committee had previously recommended to the Select Board to where ever possible, capital expenditures be included in budgets rather than in special articles; as Mike has shown. Jay recommended to defer to specific financing, via capital or free cash, until the entire capital budget is put together. Hugh added that with the nature of winter storms, moving to the 650s, a medium truck, will be the way to move forward.

Next, they moved onto the Fire Department with Chief Garofoli. The Fire Department operating budget has increased (\$16,000) due to hose replacement. Salaries have been level funded. Jay asked if they had stock of replacement hoses and testing of hoses. Vinny said that they are tested annually with a 300-foot yearly loss. He said they are currently running a lot of older hose. Jay asked if it would be funded on an as needed basis from the reserve fund to keep out of the operating budget. Mike said it is an option. Chuck asked if this hose was spare or what is on the trucks. Vinny said there were some of each. Jay asked that the need for the hose be evaluated and then discuss how it will be financed. Steve Shatz questioned the capital budget which shows \$40,642 for fire hose and nozzle replacement and how it relates. Mike said that the original ask was for a capital item to replace all the hose followed up by an annually funded item. These are two possible approaches. Roxanne questioned the \$20,000 replacement equipment and Vinny listed the items. Chuck questioned the inspection fee line and Vinny said it is for manuals, conferences, certifications and further training. Vinny went over his proposed salary line increases with a total of \$117,930.76. Jay asked for information of surrounding towns and before making these decisions. Steve asked for a profile of the volunteers that he currently has to help with the discussion on overall needs of the department and the ability to man the trucks we have; especially coverage for daylight hours. He would also like to see call numbers; emergency and medical, fire, and those calls assisted by mutual aid for structure fires. The question is why we have independent fire departments in all the small towns. Chuck suggested tabling the matter until information is supplied. It was asked in looking at repair work for Engine #2 (2001), at up to \$65,000, and with it being is up for replacement in 2 years,

why would you spend the money fixing it now? When asked about vehicle inventory, Vinny said we have 3 engines: a 2018 pumper tanker, a 2001 engine 2, 1995 engine 1 and one 2013 heavy rescue. Vinny said that repairing Engine #2 will only get it to replacement in 2 years. Chuck asked about patching and Vinny said that it would exceed the \$65,000. Mini-pumpers are also options for future replacement vehicles.

Jay said that the last item was the repairs to the Interlaken Station. Vinny said it houses engine #1. The station needs exterior repairs: window repairs/replacement and siding. Jay questioned if both the Glendale and Interlaken stations are necessary. Vinny explained how they are used for storage. Again, Steve questioned the need to repair the Interlaken station if in the future it is not needed to house a vehicle. Vinny felt that the asset needs to be protected even if the building was to be repurposed. This will all be tabled until more information is provided. They will look at reviewing and discussing other capital items on the 25th.

Next was to act upon reserve fund transfer for Ice Glen Tree Survey. Jess Toro presented an overview of the project. She also suggested that the Town look at a forest management plan. Currently an assessment is a good place to begin. Chuck made a motion that the Board request from the reserve account to do this assessment. Patrick seconded. Chuck: I Roxanne: I, Patrick: I. Jay stated that a recommendation had been made, \$6,000 for the assessment of the trees, ash and hemlocks, at Ice Glen. Steve so moved. Steve **seconded**. Roll call: Jim: yes, Pam: I, Neil: I, Steve: yes, Bill: I, Jay: yes.

Steve moved that the Finance Committee adjourn.

The Select Board meeting continued with review of Proposed Planning Board Bylaws:

- Driveways and Common Driveways. With no comments from the Board, it was then passed back to the Planning Board.
- Off-Street Parking Requirements. Roxanne and Chuck found not issue. Patrick said that he was concerned with removing all downtown parking regulations and if larger businesses converted their parking lots into other uses; he was concerned that if all parking was to be waived in the business district. Roxanne looked at the proposal in front of them and found that it did not match what was originally discussed. It was decided that it needed to be discussed. Chuck said that it would be tabled to the next meeting.
- Sign Regulations. The sign proposal also did not match and the item was tabled to the next meeting.

Next the Board was to review and act upon two petitions to amend the zoning bylaws section 4.11.1 and 4.11.2 and refer to planning board for a public hearing. These changes would not allow residential use at street level in the

business district. Roxanne suggested referring these petitions to the Planning Board subject to changes. Chuck said it should assure that it only applies to first floor and if currently residential, it would be grandfathered. Chuck made a motion to refer to the Planning Board subject to what Roxanne and Michael come up with. Patrick seconded; All were in favor.

Patrick stated that documents were found at the old Town Hall and an item stored by the Clerk. Town Counsel has written a warrant article allowing the Town to request from Smitty Pignatelli and the legislature to have the right to transfer these items to the Stockbridge Munsee tribe. Chuck made a motion that they put this on to the Town Warrant. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Reviewing short term rentals and finalizing strategy of what will be included in the proposed bylaw was tabled until the next meeting.

Next was to discuss and determine whether to accept a resolution to accept an increase in our local occupancy tax from 4 to 6%. Chuck made a motion to put this resolution to increase it to 6% on the Town Warrant. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Patrick reported on the money approved by the CPC this year.

Chuck announced committee openings: alternate for the Conservation Commission, an opening on the Stockbridge Housing Authority for a Tenant-Resident and opening on the Green Communities Committee. If you are interested let Mike know.

The Board next was to review and act upon Stockbridge Bowl Lake Management Plan Proposal and Limnological Monitoring Program. Mike requested that the Board vote to authorize him to enter into contracts with GZA to perform both of these functions. Chuck made a motion that the Board give permission to Mike to enter into the contracts. Roxanne seconded. All were in favor.

Patrick mentioned a grant opportunity for free electric car charging station and it was decided to look into this in the future.

On the alternative use of the Shared Streets Grant, Mike said that if the Town can come up with an acceptable use within the program, we can alter the use. One option is using it towards getting addition trash cans and recycling alternatives on Main Street. Another could be for solar lighting wayfaring signs on Main Street. Roxanne proposed the cans and locations with recycling and where needed with dog waste systems. Chuck made a motion that they adjust the Shared Streets Grant in order to purchase trash cans and wayfaring signs. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Patrick announced that next Tuesday and Wednesday the MVP is hosting listening sessions for senior housing issues for the future.

Christine Rasmussen stated her concern with delaying decision to refer all the proposed bylaws to the Planning Board; stating time constraints to place these on the Warrant. Patrick noted that the Select Board has 14 days to refer back (March 19th) and there should be enough time to get them on the Warrant. The Board agreed that proposals will be voted on next week, March 18, 2021.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.