



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 - 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Present: Mr. Maurice DePalo, Chairman, Ms. Beth Casavant, Vice Chairman, Mr. John Samia, Selectman, Mr. John Lebeaux, Clerk

Absent: Mr. James Kane, Selectman

Also Present: Mr. Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager. Mr. David Snowdon, Management Analyst

Preliminaries:

1. Approve bills, payrolls and warrants

On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Lebeaux, the Board unanimously voted to approve warrants #2058, 2060, and 2029

2. Approve Minutes of January 7, 2020

The Board voted to move approval to their next meeting.

3. Announcements/Reports

Mr. DePalo announced upcoming water valve cleaning and exercising, Christmas tree pickup, no delay on Martin Luther King Jr., Day, and unidirectional flushing to resume on 1/15/2020 and 1/16/2020.

4. Town Manager's Report

Mr. DePalo welcomed the new Council on Aging Director Hollie Lucht, congratulated Keith Baldinger, Public Facilities Manager, on his completion of the Building Operator Certification Course, advised the Board that he has submitted offer and accepted a purchase and sale agreement for 268 North Quinsigamond avenue contingent upon town meeting approval, and that Pharmacannis Inc. dba Verilife at 939 Boston Turnpike received approval from the Cannabis Control Commission and now has to apply for building permit.

Meetings/Hearings:

5. 7:05 pm – Joint meeting and presentation by the Public Lands Committee to hear a report on the progress of the committee relative to town owned land

Martha Gauch, Keith Baldinger, and Christopher Gauch of the Public Lands committee appeared before the Board. Mr. DePalo served as the chairman for the Public Lands Committee. Mr. DePalo briefed the Board on the history of the establishment and charge of the committee and reviewed the submitted report and the progress of the committee. As far as the next step, the public lands committee is essentially finished with what they were charged to do. The Board would have to decide if they want the committee to continue researching the land further for opportunities to acquire additional parcels. Members of the committee would be interested in working with the planning department and bringing suggestions back to the board to see if there is any interest in changing the categories of certain areas to offer more protection to the land. Mr. DePalo stated that Dan McCullen, Engineer, made this process seamless and commended him on his work. Mr. McCullen created a color coded map as well as an interactive GIS system containing Town owned land with details on the parcels. Mr. Baldinger added that Mr. DePalo went above and beyond for the committee. Mr. LeBeaux stated that the deliverable is fabulous work and helpful to the town. Ms. Casavant thanked the committee for their work and commended them on the map. Mr. Samia asked how many tax title properties may

have structures on it, Mr. DePalo responded that there are almost none. The Board discussed the draft GIS map and its functionality for exploring town owned land.

6. 7:10 pm: Public Hearing with John Litchfield, proposed manager of Adelphi, Inc. d/b/a Knights of Columbus, 206 South Quinsigamond Avenue, for a Change of Manager and Alteration of Premises to their All Alcohol Club License

Mr. Litchfield appeared before the Board. Mr. Litchfield stated that the building has been sold and they now only occupy the first floor. They have a long term lease and are staying downstairs. Operations are not changing. Mr. Litchfield is the proposed manager. On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Ms. Casavant, the Board unanimously voted to close the hearing. On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously voted approval of the license application.

7. 7:20 pm: Public Hearing with Amir Hanna, Owner of AG United Incorporated, d/b/a 7-11, 38 Maple Avenue, for a Wine & Malt Beverages Package Store License

Gehan Wassef, partner, appeared before the board and handed the Board letters of support for her application. Ms. Wassef stated that they are applying for an off-premise beer & wine license and also submitted letters to the Board verifying that they do not have any violations of selling to minors and also submitted signatures from customers advocating for the approval of the license application. Ms. Wassef stated that the beer and wine would be located in one door in the cooler, not a large selection, and one display of boxes of beer off to the side of the first door of the cooler. The hours of alcohol sales would be 8:00 am to 11:00 pm Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 11:00 pm Sunday. The store itself is open 24 hours and after the hours of alcohol sales the door to the cooler will be locked.

The Board discussed the amount of young kids that like to go to the center of town and visit 7/11 and expressed their concerns of minors getting alcohol from that location. Ms. Wassef stated that the location is highly staffed and there are many cameras.

Members of the public gave public comment on the application.

Kevin Hickey- Owner of Hickey's Liquors – stated that a lot of kids come in after school and they need police there after school just to direct traffic and doesn't believe it's a good idea.

Peter Blancher- 15 Heatherwood drive- stated that he is opposed to the application and doesn't think it's completely thought out, and it's a high traffic area. He respects the owners desire to grow the business, but it seems like it would not be that significant to add more congestion or problems and there are a lot of young people behind the counter.

Nick Palorkoroni- stated that he is a long time property owner in Shrewsbury and his cousin used to run White Hen, before it had become 7/11. The store has always been clean and well cared for. To allow them to have beer and wine he thinks would be helpful, and is advocating for approval.

Nick Rushadi, resident- wants to vote for approval. He used to work part time for the owners of 7/11 and they do a great job verifying age.

Gene Buddenhangen owns property adjacent to 7/11 and is against issuing a license, especially with Hickey's Liquors next door and is concerned that multiple gas stations on Maple Ave will follow suit and apply for licenses.

Angela Snell- resident- Ms. Snell asked the owners where they were displaying boxes. Ms. Wassef replied that the boxes would be off to the corner of the cooler and will be labeled "not for sale" after hours. Ms. Wassef explained about her history of working for a convenience store in Framingham and is familiar with securing alcohol after hours and on holidays.

Amar Mohammad- stated that he owns a 7/11 in Worcester and sits on the Board of 7/11 franchisees. He appreciates the concerns of others. However lately, there is a challenge for a lot of owners to maintain their business due to the new tobacco regulations. Almost all owners are trying to find another avenue to make up for losses. The 7/11 system also prohibits the sale of alcohol unless to minors.

Mr. DePalo reviewed how the commonwealth issues a quota to each community for the number of licenses and the Town currently has 7 off-premise beer and wine licenses available. On a motion by Ms. Casavant, seconded by Mr. Lebeaux, the Board unanimously voted to close the hearing.

Ms. Wassef stated that if the license application was approved then she would send all of her employees to an alcohol TIPS training class. The Board discussed their thoughts on the application. Ms. Casavant stated that she would like to see a restriction on where the alcohol would be displayed for sale, to the first two doors in the cooler (doors 11 & 12)

On a motion by Ms. Casavant, seconded by Mr. Lebeaux, the Board unanimously voted to approve the license application with the hours of Monday through Saturday 8:00 am to 11:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 11:00 pm, with the conditions that the display is limited to doors 11 & 12 and an alteration of premise must be submitted should the owners want to extend the display, and that all employees are TIPS certified.

New Business:

8. Mid-year Fiscal update

Mr. Mizikar stated that departments have focused on increasing communication and commended departments for their efforts and thanked town employees for their work. Mr. Mizikar reviewed a PowerPoint presentation including Financials, Capital Improvement Plan, Accomplishments, and Challenges. Upon reviewing the fees for solid waste, Mr. Mizikar noted that the ability to negotiation with a separate agreement with a recycling processing company is playing out well as far as the tipping fee. Being a dual stream community has worked out in the Towns favor considering the price of disposing of recycleables.

Upon reviewing the capital improvement plan, the board discussed the purchasing of new vehicles that are energy efficient.

Mr. Mizikar reviewed noteworthy items from various departments, training developments, and select operational challenges. Mr. Baldinger was in the audience and explained why it has been challenging to fill an HVAC positon, because the private sector is more competitive than the public sector.

Mr. Mizikar discussed community requests and noted the perception of the hauler, calls have decreased, and services will be enhanced in February with the new trucks on the road.

Mr. Mizikar discussed planning in fiscal year 2021, the Board of Selectmen annual planning cycle, department annual planning cycle, and enhanced meeting content including quarterly and regular updates.

The Board commended Mr. Mizikar on his report. Mr. Samia would like to see an overlay of a strategic plan within the goals.

9. BOS Budget Workshop 1

Mr. Mizikar provided the Board with an early look at the budget to discuss department requests. Mr. Mizikar noted that we are challenged more this year with the amount of available revenue.

Mr. Mizikar reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the FY21 budget. Mr. Mizikar gave a summary on the differences between the fy20 budget and the fy21 budget projection, the fy20 revenue summary and fy21 budget summary. Mr. Mizikar also reviewed the FY21 capital improvement plan.

Mr. Samia stressed that we pay particular attention to every decision in 2021 so every decision we make we know what we're looking at in 2022 and don't end up coming into a deficit situation.

10. Review and act on the road race request from Shrewsbury High School Seniors Sophia Morano and Madison Sandusky for the first annual Mental Health Awareness at Oak Middle School on Saturday April 4, 2020 at 12:00 pm

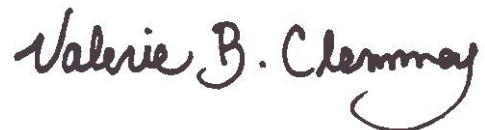
On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Ms. Casavant, the Board unanimously approved the race request.

Correspondence: The Board of Selectmen will review and possibly act on the following:

11. Letter, dated January 2, 2020, from Governor Charles D. Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito to Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, re: Chapter 90 Funds- so noted
12. Letter, dated January 2, 2020, from Joanne Campo, Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, re: Recent Audit of Dealerships- so noted
13. Letter, dated January 6, 2020, from Susan Osborne, 249 South Quinsigamond Ave, re: Water Lein Appeal- so noted
14. Letter, dated January 6, 2020, from Shi Wen Chen, 6 Crane Circle, re: Cultural Council Interest- so noted
15. Email, dated January 6, 2020, from Bridgid Rubin, Associate Member, ZBA, re: Resignation- so noted
16. Email, dated January 7, 2020, from Robert Raymond, CMRPC, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, re: CMRPC Traffic Counting Results- so noted
17. Email, dated January 10, 2020, from Jane Siebels, Spring Street School, re: Community Reading Day- so noted
18. Memo, dated January 10, 2020, from Andy Truman, P.E., Town Engineer, re: Old Mill Road Sidewalk Citizen request- There are potential right of way concerns especially closer to Harrington. Mr. DePalo suggested that this be revisited and added to the list of potential projects.
19. Memo, dated January 10, 2020, From Andy Truman, P.E., Town Engineer, James Hester, Police Chief, Nick Repekta, Highway Division Manager, re: Blind Driveway Sign Request on Gulf Street- so noted
20. Email, dated January 10, 2020 from Angela Snell, Superintendent of Public Facilities & Parks, re: First DPW Newsletter- so noted

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie B. Clemmey
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Referenced Materials

- Public Lands Report dated January 14, 2020
- 2019 Color Coded Map of Town Owned Land
- 7/11 Site Plan
- 7/11 Signatures of Support and register screen image
- Budget workshop PowerPoint dated January 14, 2020
- Mid-year update PowerPoint dated January 14, 2020