

Selectmen's minutes of meeting July 27, 2020

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Mark Newman, Joanne Grybosh by remote Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Remote participation information provided for the public.

Brian re convened the public hearing for Roger Ball, 175 New Hartford Road, map & parcel 420-4.2 to allow construction to add a storage building to the existing saphouse.

Mr. Ball explained that he listened to everyone's concerns regarding his original plan. He has scaled it back to only adding an 8' x 12' extension. The roof line will be below the existing structure and will not obstruct any view.

George clarified that the roof line will continue with the current roof line and go slightly lower to 6 feet.

Mark asked for the purpose of the addition. Mr. Ball responded that it is for storage of sap producing products.

Alex Bowman asked how much is nonconforming. Brian responded that it is 22 feet off the boundary line same as the existing building.

Alex asked about the height. Mr. Ball responded that it reduces from the existing roof down to 6 feet.

In his opinion Alex feels this does not fall within the special permit bylaw.

John Burrows stated that he is an abutter and has no objections.

Alex feels this is arbitrary.

Brian asked Alex to read the bylaw aloud. Alex could not produce it but feels it is detrimental.

Mark stated that this structure has been there for a long time making syrup which is an agricultural process and he is 100% in favor of it.

Brian read aloud the bylaw pertaining to Nonconforming Structures, Uses and Lots as follows:

- A. The provision of this bylaw shall not apply to structures or uses lawfully in existence or lawfully begun at the time of the adoption of this bylaw as provided in Section 6, Chapter 40A. (G.L.)
- B. Pre-existing nonconforming structures or uses may be extended, altered, or changed to another nonconforming use by special permit from the Board of Selectmen provided that the Board finds that such change, extension, or alteration shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming use to the neighborhood.

Brian stated that Roger is not changing the use or the character of the building.

George stated that by Alex's reasoning there would never be a need for a special permit. The bylaw as written clearly allows for the public hearing process for this purpose.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to allow the 8'X12" addition to the saphouse. Roll call vote, Brian yes, George yes, Mark yes. Mark wanted it noted that he agrees to this because it is an agricultural process.

Public hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and signed

Purchase orders reviewed and signed

Brian reviewed that ambulance service to the Town of Tolland. It was voted on at the Tolland Town meeting to appropriate \$30,000 for ambulance service. The Town of Sandisfield has since received a letter from Tolland wanting to change the agreement to a monthly per call billing.

Brian reviewed with Town Counsel, we are not obligated or liable if we do not respond to an ambulance call to Tolland since we do not have a contract with them. It is the advice of town counsel that we have no obligation at all and they recommend that we negotiate an agreement with the Town of Tolland. Ralph drafted a 3 year contract for \$30,000 for the first year and then a 2% increase each year for the following 2 years.

George would like to add a sentence that states "upon successful passage at Tolland's town meeting".

Mark stated that approximately 30% of our calls are for Tolland. The cost for operating the ambulance is approximately \$90,000 which is how they came up with the \$30,000 cost to Tolland. Ralph confirmed this and said \$30,000 is probably on the low side. Mark does not want to renegotiate.

Brian would like to send the draft contract to town counsel for review first and then we will send it to Tolland. They will have 30 days to pay for the service or service will stop.

George would like the Municipal Service Agreement on town letterhead and any other adjustments town counsel recommends.

Nina Carr asked how the Tolland Selectmen came to change their decision. Mark and George explained that the warrant article was not specific to the Town of Sandisfield, only for ambulance service.

Brian will follow up with town counsel and move forward.

We received a letter from Adam Gonska asking to be re appointed as a part time police officer. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously.

Paul Gaudette is requesting an Administrative Asst. for the Conservation Commission and for the Planning Board. He submitted a job description for each. Rates of pay will be based on the FY2021 budgeted amount. Brian asked Joanne about posting them on the website. Joanne explained that there are 2 places on the website she will post.

George suggested adding that the Administrative Assistant be the liaison for the budget cycle. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to post these 2 positions.

Update on the Town Custodian position. Joanne stated she has posted it on the website and face with no reply's yet. George suggested having a cleaning service in the meantime and pay for it under the Covid CARES Act. Brian asked Joanne to do some research into companies with cleaning service. All agreed that she should advertise in the Shoppers Guide and hand the job posting at the Transfer Station and Post Office.

Discussed how to address people that show up at the Town Buildings with out appointments. All agreed to not allow people unless the staff are comfortable. Brian responded that they are providing 3 X 3 Plexiglas shields for each room which will provide coverage as long as masks are being worn. Ralph Morrison volunteered to laminate signs. Dolores asked if she could get the security camera repaired and add an intercom system. Brian gave Dolores permission to get the cameras repaired, the door buzzers reinstalled and an intercom system installed. All agreed.

Discussed bringing back the Assistant Town Clerk. Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko explained her request. We will be having Early Voting by Mail and Early Voting in person. The process of preparing all the absentee and early voting ballots is going to be extremely time consuming. Due to Covid she gets daily updates on changes regarding voting. She needs help. Brian asked for an estimate of what she feels she needs. Dolores responded that she would like her back for 3 weeks before the primary and 4 weeks before the Presidential election.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to allow the Assistant Town Clerk back on an as needed basis with pre approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager updates:

Joanne has been doing a lot of work on the website.

They are going out to bid on the Route 57 culverts by Friday.

There is a lot of activity throughout the town on various road projects.

She received a letter from Roger Kohler from the Recreation Committee regarding the American Legion rental agreement. They are offering to put off this years lease payment until next year. She will follow up.

Mark asked Joanne about the Transfer Station Grant for the cardboard compactor and the swap shop building. Joanne responded that she had received confirmation today and that one page is missing. She has the page and can sign on behalf of the town.

Future agenda items:

Common Vic license for 7 New Hartford Road

Accept letter of resignation from Teresa Spohnholz from the Recreation Committee

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

There were no other topics

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman