

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

December 01, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Chairman Brett A. Simas; Selectman Maureen Dwinnell; Selectman Stephen A. Matellian; Town Manager, Derek S. Brindisi; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Upton are being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

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As a preliminary matter, this is Brett Simas – Chair, Board of Selectmen. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. *Stephen Matellian, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye,*
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. Derek Brindisi, Town Manager aye, *State each staff members' name.*
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative. *None*

REVIEW MEETING AGENDA

INVITED GUESTS

[Hartford Ave S Pole Relocation Hearing](#)

Public Hearing – National Grid Pole Location

Chairman Simas re-opened the Public Hearing at 7:05PM pertaining to the Petition by National Grid seeking approval to install 3 phase OH power from p65 to riser pole 65-1 on customer property at 25 Maple Ave. to support p65, a 45' JO push brace p65-89 is to be installed approx. 15' SE on town property

Dana Larsen was in attendance representing National Grid to answer questions from the Board.

During the hearing Stephen Bern asked what the purpose of the three-phase power would be and how does it expand the Railroad's operations. The Town Manager explained the three-

phase power would be for a building on the property that has already been constructed. Town officials have been working with the Railroad on their expansion project. Due to pre-emptive laws, the GURR do not need a local building permit but are working with the town to meet safety requirements. To install 3 phase OH power for a big operation is rare stated Valerie Leonardo, and she wondered what else is in the scope of their project besides poles?

The 10,000 square foot building will hold 10 to 12 silos to store chemicals already bringing on site. The building will increase storage capacity. Additionally, planned are 18 new spurs to be used for "parking" for tankers.

Jonathan Calianas also asked what chemicals are being transported in, how they will be stored and what precautions will be taken. Mr. Simas explained that Town Counsel has confirmed that the pole hearing is not an opportunity for the Town to legally provide any leverage and to interrogate the expansion use of the RR.

Grafton Upton Railroad Company president, Michael Milanoski, stated that the expansion activities will not result in any additional chemicals being stored on site. He also said none of the chemicals are "skull and crossbones, could be considered health hazards". He declined to discuss the entire list, but stated that public safety has the list.

Motion #1: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to approve National Grid request to install 3 phase OH power from p65 to riser pole 65-1 on customer property at 25 Maple Ave. to support p65, a 45' JO push brace p65-89 is to be installed approx. 15' SE on town property.

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Motion to Amend [License & Permit Fee Schedule](#) to include Farmer Series Pouring Permit

Motion #2: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell approve the License & Permit Fee Schedule to include Farmer Series Pouring Permit.

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Motion #3: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to close the pole hearing.

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Motion to [Renew Annual Licensing - Common Victualers, Class II, Entertainment, All Alcohol](#)
Selectman Matellian recused himself from the renewal of Lass II licensing.

Motion #4: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to renew the following Class II licenses contingent upon receipt by the Town of all documents and payments required of said license:

Matellian Motors
McQ Sales
Motuzas Automotive Inc.
Patrick Davidson
Precision Auto Center
Upton Foreign Auto Service
Upton Getty, Inc.
Upton Truck and Auto
MGM

Second: Chairman Simas, Majority Action of the Board
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye

Motion #5: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to renew the following Common Victualler Licenses contingent upon receipt by the Town of all documents and payments required of said license:

Country Club Sooper
KCLC, Inc. (Rose Garden)
Red Rock Grill & Bar
KB Holdings (118 Main)
Main Street Pizza
C&N Food Service, Inc. (Dunkin D)
Honey Farms, Inc.
Kevin Lu, Inc. (Jade Garden)
SBD, Inc. (Little Coffee Bean)
Upton House of Pizza
VFW

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Motion #6: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to renew the following entertainment licenses contingent upon receipt by the Town of all documents and payments required of said license.

KCLC, Inc. (Rose Garden) - Auto Amusement Coin Op 1
Red Rock Grill & Bar – Live Music

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Motion #7: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to renew the following alcoholic beverages licenses contingent upon receipt by the Town of all documents and payments required of said license:

Nipmuc Rod & Gun Club
Rushford & Son

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

[Motion Accept Deed - Crosswinds](#)

Motion #8: Motion made by Selectman Matellian to accept the deed for Crosswinds.

Second: Selectman Dwinnell, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

[Motion to Accept Deed – 0 Grove Street](#)

Motion #9: Motion made by Selectman Matellian to accept the deed for 0 Grove Street.

Second: Selectman Dwinnell, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

[Discuss Funding Request by Fire Association](#)

On behalf the Upton Men's Club, and the Upton Fire-EMS Association, Seth Grill requested, Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), from the towns beautification fund to decorate the town common for the 2020 holiday season. The Upton Men's Club and Fire-EMS Association are then going to be hosting a "Common Tree Lighting" Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 pm.

Motion #10: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to expend up to Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), from the towns beautification fund to decorate the town common for the 2020 holiday season.

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

[Discuss Request from Men's Club to hold Ice Challenge on Town Property](#)

As in previous years Mike Howell UMC member explained to the Board the Upton Men's Club desire to hold the "ice out challenge", a fund raiser that entails putting a snowman on the pond and people guessing what date and time the ice would melt and the snowman would fall. They have been in contact with both Police and Fire seeking assistance.

The Board was in favor of holding this event.

[Review and Amend Use of Town Hall Policy](#)

The Board reviewed the current policy and offered suggestions. They will review an edited version at their next meeting.

Motion to Open Warrant on December 1, 2020 and Close the Warrant on January 29, 2021

Motion #11: Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to Open Warrant on December 1, 2020 and Close the Warrant on January 29, 2021

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion #12: Motion made by Selectman Matellian to approve the October 20, November 10 minutes.

Second: Selectman Dwinnell, Unanimous, Chairman Simas
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Selectman Matellian held the November 17 minutes requesting discussion on cemetery commission presentation be included.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Fowler Street Bridge has reopened
- Disability Commission will be kicking off their self-evaluation and transition plan on December 9
- COA has distributed over 66 meals
- N2N will advertise in the Town Crier next month
- IT grant for 15K was awarded to the Town
- PD awarded a 32K grant for body cam
- 5K wellness grant awarded
- Covid update – red community status as of today
- Library Trustees have recently voted to close the library
- Code Enforcement - the online program has already proven itself extremely effective with just managing the workload and the volume that has taken place during this construction season with an increase in permits this year compared to last
- Chief Bradley is working very closely on the police reform bill as he sits on the executive board of Chief of Police Association
- Tax payments will be asked to send their payments to a Lockbox program adding to its efficiencies

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion #13: At 9:07pm Selectman Dwinnell made motion to adjourn.

Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant