

December 4, 2017 7:00PM Selectmen's Meeting

Present: Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn, Danielle Fillio

Don welcomed everyone and gave brief updates of upcoming events.

Don thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas weekend events, stated it was a complete success and personally thanked Barbara Zanetti.

Don continued with the first item on the agenda' the Stockbridge Police Department promotion recognition and ceremony. He called on Chief Fennelly who took the podium and presented the following:

Thank you Honorable Board of Selectmen for allowing us to be here tonight and the residents for their continued support.

Tonight I am pleased and honored to announce the promotion of Kirk Nichols to the position of Sergeant.

At this time, if I can ask for Sergeant Nichols to join me at the podium.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Sergeant Nichols's family who are in the audience. He is joined tonight by his wife, Sarah and his mother-in-law.

The Sergeant occupies the first level of supervision in the Department, and is responsible for the overall supervision and control of all sworn Department members under his command.

He is responsible for the proficiency, conduct, appearance, discipline and strict attention to duty of the officers under his supervision.

The Sergeant must be fully familiar with current Department rules and regulations, policies, and procedures.

Sergeant Kirk Nichols was raised in Bangor, Maine. After high school, Kirk attended Maine Maritime Academy before he enlisted in the United States Navy as a US Navy Hospital Corpsman. Kirk served two combat deployments in Helmand Province, Afghanistan with the United States Marine Corps. He was honorable discharged in 2011. After his discharge, he moved to the Berkshires to be with his wife, Sarah. Kirk joined the Stockbridge Police Department in May of 2014 after self-sponsoring to the Western Massachusetts Regional Police Academy where he served as President of the 49th Recruit Officer Class. Among his accomplishments, Kirk was recently awarded the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Agency's Trilogy Award. He currently is the Department's property room officer, firearms instructor, armorer, and is certified to manage and supervise a field training program.

Since 2015, Kirk has served on the Berkshire County Special Response Team.

During Sergeant Nichols career here in Stockbridge, he has received numerous letters of appreciation and thank you's.

Sergeant Nichols will soon complete over 80 hours of practical, real life hands on field training as a first line supervisor at the Pittsfield Police Department. He will train and shadow Pittsfield's sergeants and lieutenants while they work their normal evening and day shifts.

In June Sergeant Nichols will attend the 40 hour MPTC Sergeant's Training Program. Kirk currently lives in Pittsfield with his wife and his two daughters, Olivia and Emma. As you can see, Sergeant Nichols is well qualified to fill the role of Sergeant. We are fortunate to have him.

I would like to have Sarah pin Sergeant Nichols's new badge on him.

Darrell and the Select Board congratulated Kirk. Don thanked them both for their great work.

Next on the agenda was the Stockbridge Bowl Dredging project and stated that he was pleased that they would be moving forward with the dredging contract. Greg Wellencamp, project manager came to the podium to explain. Greg stated that the contract between GZA Environmental and the Town of Stockbridge is with the Town as they control the funds, not the Stockbridge Bowl Association. He said that there have been quite a few amendments and as of last week, came to an agreement with GZA and the Town with the verbiage. He asked for a cap on the hourly rates which they were not willing to do. They were asked to hold their hourly rates and if they do change them the Town may go to another engineering firm. Jennie Merrell said that this is an option. The status is that once the contracts are signed off by GZA and the Select Board, a preliminary meeting with National Heritage concerning the endangered snail issue is next. After that will be the actual meeting with National Heritage and if they agree to the dredging, it will be permitting after that.

Don thanked Gregg and Jennie for all their work.

Don made a motion that the Town enter into contract Amendment # 4 with GZA of Springfield, Massachusetts in the amount of \$157,506.00 for consulting services on the Stockbridge Bowl Dredging Project. Chuck seconded. All were in favor.

Next item on the agenda was the awarding of Alcohol and Entertainment Licenses.

Don made a motion to approve the following Annual Alcohol Licenses for:

Berkshire Theatre Festival, Boston Symphony Orchestra – Tanglewood , Elm Street Market, Theresa's Stockbridge Café, Michael's Restaurant, Once Upon a Table, Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge Golf Club, Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club, Stockbridge Wine Cellar and Wheatleigh. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Don made a motion to approve the following Annual Entertainment Licenses for:

Berkshire Botanical Garden, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Boston Symphony Orchestra – Tanglewood, Chesterwood, Michael's Restaurant, Naumkeag, Norman Rockwell Museum, Red Lion Inn and Wheatleigh. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Next was discussion on the Special Town Meeting. Don said that it was originally discussed to be on January 22nd. Two items discussed were the Highway garage and the Special Act for the Collector and Treasure Positions.

Chuck said that he would like to keep the January 22nd meeting and post it to move ahead with the Highway Garage. Don said that they still have time to make this decision. Danielle stated that the last

day the Warrant can be posted is January 5th. Don said that as he understands now, they are talking about a garage with three bays with the Talbot Center at the end costing roughly 1.5 million dollars with a \$100,000 cost to include the Talbot Center. Don said that if passed at the May meeting it could be done in the summer. He said he was not comfortable entering in with that design. Chuck said that they were having another meeting on December 11th to discuss the design. There are other options but even more costly ones if moving the Talbot Center. Don would like to see other options. Danielle said that Mike Kulig stated if the building is moved and not put back on a foundation, everything has to follow code. Terry also agreed that they did not need to decide on the Special Town Meeting yet. If they meet on the 11th for the garage and meet on the 18th for the Collector-Treasurer positions; following that they will have answers and decide on the 27th about the Special Town Meeting.

Danielle suggested that they get three different building scenarios for the Highway Garage from Mike Kulig; one with the Talbot Center in the Garage, one without the Talbot Center but with all the bays Lenny wants and one with all the bays he wants and the Talbot center relocated to the side. Terry said it would also be nice to see a sketch. To clarify, Terry said that there are currently 4 bays in the plan.

Don said that the next thing would be the special act to combine positions and go from elected to appointed positions.

Don mentioned that the Town Account had advised them that she will be retiring in a few weeks. Don thanked her for her many years of service.

Danielle said that she has recommendations for accounting firms and in the interim to make sure everyone continues to get paid, the accountant will train Terri Iemolini to do payroll. They will then get a temporary firm in.

Terry also took a moment to thank Elaine for her service.

Don said that because we have these two parallels, that this makes a unique opportunity to look at how the Town manages their municipal finances. There have been several ideas suggested such as possibly having a Financial Manager with two assistants, reporting to Danielle, instead of an accountant.

He said that they should maybe have a task force to look into this.

Terry suggested a three person search committee, who would look at the job description, refine it and then conducting the search.

Chuck said that in the meant time they have an accounting firm to come in to give us additional time.

Don asked if Terry would pick the three people for the task force and get the committee started as soon as possible. They agreed that they would all submit names and ask for interested parties, but set a deadline within the next few days. Don said that they would give Terry names and would let him pick the members and Terry agreed. Don told Danielle that he would go ahead with a temporary replacement.

Don made a motion to set up a three person task force to look into fulfilling the accountant position and to look into other options for the financial management program for the Town. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Christine Rasmussen, Sergeant Street, said that it was hard to hear their discussion and follow their motions. Her only comment is that the task force needs defined responsibilities and specific time frames. They need to be very clear to their responsibilities to make the decisions needed. She said that if you are looking at how the Town finances will run in the future, the role of the committee needs to be defined.

Don said that they will meet with Finance on the 11th, discuss Tri-Town Health and do a 6 month evaluation on Danielle. Don suggested that each of them complete the form or do their own evaluation. All agreed.

With no further business, Don made the motion to adjourn. Chuck seconded, all were in agreement.