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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
March 23, 2023 BOH Meeting 6:00pm
Veteran's Room

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:05pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

Nicole Duffey
Anthony Postale- excused
Daniel Grabowski
Paige Szugda
Jasmine Quinones

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

- a. February 16, 2023- Motion to table the February 16, 2023 minutes made by Chair Duffey; 2nd by D. Grabowski:
Roll Call
J. Quinones-yes
P. Szugda-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
A. Postale-excused
N. Duffey- yes

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale). February 16, 2023 BOH meeting minutes are tabled.

Agenda #4-Citizens Forum- None

Agenda #5- COVID Update

- a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- Director Wasiuk offers COVID reports submitted by the Regional Epidemiologists, Brianna Burnham (see attached) for Board's review. According to the draft, Director Wasiuk states the infection rate continues to be fluid. Member Grabowski questions the slight rate increase and whether or not this may be due to fewer vaccines. According to the Epidemiologist, Director Wasiuk relays there were no flu cases in Southbridge as of the report on March 13th.

Agenda #6-Old Business

- a. Blight Update – Director Wasiuk informs the Board there are various locations in need of attention particularly 36 Thomas St and 20 Brick Row. These two properties were condemned and secured by the previous inspectional team however, the structural integrity of 20 Brick Row is significantly compromised including a collapsed roof, exposing all the interior to the elements thus continuously degrading. Director Wasiuk expects to present this property to the Town Council for their approval to demolish the dwelling. Member Szugda questions whether or not the department has a list on condemn buildings. Director Wasiuk states the department has been accruing a list of condemned buildings, including buildings with ongoing issues, sold & rehabbed properties, foreclosed properties and town owned properties. Director Wasiuk continues stating this list is being collected with the intent to auction off Town owned properties when the new Tax Collector begins her tenure. Again, in consultation with the Building Inspector Michael Julian, 20 Brick Row is the top priority in regards to public health and safety. Chair Duffey inquires on a time frame for the demolition. Director Wasiuk responds: the process with the Town Council should begin within the next couple of weeks, then the bidding process (3 bids) this could take at several months.

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Discussion regarding list of blight, condemned and rehabbed occupancies continues. Director Wasiuk to provide a list of the top 10 properties within 2 weeks to the Board.

b. On-going discussion on community Mental Health needs- Member Quinones shares she was able to secure a 3rd respite facility within South County (Dudley). This is a four-bedroom home with the possibility of six for crisis alternative and will be free of charge for those in need. For additional information please visit kivacenter.org, follow services tab and complete the recommendation process to begin.

Member Quinones excitedly shares a recent promotion as Co-Director of Programming. CONGRATS JASMINE! In addition, Member Quinones announces Grandparents raising grandchildren meeting in Spanish only and the Farmer's Market although moved its location to the YMCA, continues successfully. In the next months, the Market will relocate back to the Central St Parking Lot with the intent to have various organizations set up information tables.

Chair Duffey mentions she is coordinating an invitation to You Inc and Open Sky (maybe St. Luke's Guesthouse) for a presentation to the Board. The idea is to connect with other organizations for information on what is available in and for our community.

Agenda #7 New Business

a. Beautify Southbridge- Inspector Quinn joins the meeting, providing flyers for Beautify Southbridge. Inspector Quinn states the department has ordered signs and banners through the Center of Hope. They are expected to arrive within the next week or two. Member Quinones has graciously volunteered to supply snacks and refreshments for the event. As part of the promotional campaign, Director Wasiuk has kindly volunteered as the spokesman for a video announcing the event.

Member Grabowski offers a contribution of \$100.00 for any supplies needed. THANK YOU!

Inspector Quinn welcomes friends, family and groups of all sizes to Beautify Southbridge on April 29th beginning 8:30am-Noon; meet at Town Hall. Rain date scheduled for April 30th. If unable to make the event, volunteers can rent free grabbers, bags and gloves throughout the year at the Health Department.

Agenda #8- Discuss whether to amend current Regulations on Tobacco Use Including Restricting Youth Access on the prohibition of smoking bars- Member Grabowski motions to table agenda #8; 2nd by member Szugda;

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

P. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion to table agenda #8 passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Agenda #9- Discuss the process of issuing permits to determine if this is to be amended- Motion to table made by D. Grabowski; 2nd by P. Szugda:

Roll Call

D. Grabowski-yes

P. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

A. Postale – excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Agenda #10- Discuss input for usage of Opioid Funds- Chair Duffey explains in prior meetings the Board discussed a first contact individual, similar to a social worker for the use of Opioid Funds. Director Wasiuk announces the

settlement funds awarded to each municipality in the Commonwealth is only \$10,000.00. This information comes from the previous Town Manager and is not much to work with. Members of the Board agree. Member Quinones states that amount would only pay for a consultant and not a social worker. Director Wasiuk informs the Board he would have to research further on the particulars (appropriations/usage/time frame) including the exact dollar amount.

Member Quinones offers to provide Opioid work done at the KIVA Center in detail such as the breakdown of funds including consulting cost, educational costs for the Board to review and consider.

Chair Duffey requests Director Wasiuk obtain all the information available on the Opioid Funds.

Member Quinones publicizes Narcan is available free of charge from the Police and Fire Department. Chair Duffey suggests this information be placed on the Towns Website.

Agenda #11- Discuss ARPA funds project ie: homeless shelter- Director Wasiuk explains a proposal for use of the ARPA funds includes the Building Departments needs. Request for ARPA funds will be discussed during the April 6th meeting at 4:00pm. The request centers on equipment ranging from electronic LED signage, personal protective equipment and a vehicle for inspections. This request aligns within the parameters of the ARPA funds. In addition, there is a request for two additional part-time positions that will be directed towards the Solid Waste program. These positions will assist the department in enforcement, education and any other actions needed such as illegal dumping.

Agenda #12- Health Director's Announcement- Director Wasiuk announces he will continue to investigate municipal liens, keep the Board updated with the ARPA requests and blighted properties.

Agenda #13- Chairman Announcement- None

Agenda #13- Board Members Announcements-

D. Grabowski- Announces the Adhoc Trash Committee meeting will be held April 6th at 6:00pm in the Veteran's Room.

P. Szugda- none

J. Quinones- none

Agenda #14- Schedule Next Meeting- April 20th @ 6:00pm

Agenda #16- Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn by P. Szugda; 2nd D. Grabowski:

Roll Call

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

P. Szugda-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale- excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Recording Clerk,

M. Portalatin



