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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

September 8, 2022 BOH Meeting 6:00pm Veterans' Room
Public Hearing @ 6:15pm Well Variance Request 864 N Woodstock Rd
Public Hearing @ 6:30pm Thomas Variety 58 East Main St Tobacco Violation
Public Hearing @ 7:30pm Declare 209 Marcy St Unfit for Human Habitation

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:00pm

Chair Duffey welcomes new BOH members; Paige Szugda and Jasmine Quinones

Agenda #2- Roll Call

Nicole Duffey

Anthony Postale

Dan Grabowski

Paige Szugda

Jasmine Quinones

Nicole Duffey
Anthony Postale
Dan Grabowski
Paige Szugda

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Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

a. August 4, 2022- Motion is made by A. Postale to accept minutes as written; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call

A. Postale- yes

D. Grabowski- yes

N. Duffey- yes

P. Szugda- abstain

J. Quinones- abstain

Motion passes unanimously 3-2 abstain (Szugda and Quinones)

Agenda #4- Presentation

a. PAYT by Irene Congdon- Ms. Congdon explains she is a Regional Recycling Coordinator covering 75 communities providing guidance in all aspects of recycling, composting, reuse and reduce. As part of the presentation, she distributes printed documents to board members and audience for review.

Ms. Congdon explains she is present to provide an overview of options/ideas Southbridge may have in the future come the end of the curbside collection contract in 2024. In addition, she suggested applying for a Technical Assistance Grant which would cover 80 hours of time to meet in-depth with the committee involved in the decision-making portion of the program. Members of the committee would be comprised of BOH, Town Council, Finance Department and Senior Center. Ms. Congdon stresses this is a topic that will draw attention and meetings at length. Due to the closing of the landfill: hence changing the Towns "free" trash and recycling pick-up, it's now time to discuss contracts. The contract will involve the collection, processing and disposal costs. Essentially going out to bid, thus affecting residents.

Resident- D. Clemence expresses she was asked to present other options such as independent curbside pick-up rather than a tax override.

Ms. Congdon continues explaining the (PAYT) pay-as-you-throw program is essentially that; residents pay per unit for disposal of household trash. Also referred to as “save \$; reduce trash”. Stating this program is the best one by far since Southbridge has the two-bucket system (64-gallon trash; 96-gallon recycling) the town would only need to reverse them (96-gallon trash; 64-gallon recycling) and purchase the yellow bags (pay-as-you-throw).

Ms. Congdon expresses PAYT is all psychological. When paying per bag, folks tend to become cognitive when throwing stuff out, such as textiles can be placed in clothing donations, magazines/newspapers recycled and food scraps thrown in compost bins. This is, again, an effective tool to reduce waste while increasing recycling.

6:15pm- Chair Duffey announces an error on the public hearing request stating it is not a well variance but a septic variance for 864 N Woodstock Rd.

Motion made by A. Postale to edit from Well to Septic variance request for 864 N Woodstock Rd; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call
N. Duffey- yes
A. Postale-yes
D. Grabowski- yes
J. Quinones- yes
P. Szugda-yes

Motion passes unanimously of all present.

Public Hearing @ 6:15pm SEPTIC Variance Request 864 N Woodstock Rd- Mark Farrell, Designer from Green Hill Engineering appears before the board proposing replacing the now cesspool with a compliant Title V system consisting of a tank and Presby absorption system claiming the State does allow a reduction of 2 feet from the 4 ft with BOH approval thus a request for the variance.

Regional Inspector, Douglas Mercurio reviewed the septic plan, agrees with the designer Mr. Farrell as long as there are no additional bedrooms added and homeowner follows the designer’s condition on annual inspections.

Brief discussion:

Motion made by member D. Grabowski; 2nd by P. Szugda:

Roll Call
N. Duffey-yes
A. Postale-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
J. Quinones-yes
P. Szugda- yes

Motion passes unanimously of all present.

PAYT presentation continues:

At this time, Ms. Congdon describes various options of the “usage/convenience” of PAYT as well as funding, environmental benefits and strategies. Stating she believes Southbridge already has a set amount on the cost/spending. Town Manager McCall announces its spending approved at 1.8 million. Ms. Congdon announces some options include:

- Everything on Taxes
- PAYT program
- Flat free program
- Or a combination depending on what benefits the town.

In addition, there's ideas on a Drop n Swap program: Drop-off station for hard to manage items or extra trash; also, a transfer station. Continuing, Ms. Congdon shares statistics and the benefits of active PAYT programs located throughout Central Mass.

6:30pm Public Hearing for Thomas Variety 58 East Main St Tobacco violation:

Rick Saudelli, Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance (LTCA) Representative explains this is the 3rd retail flavored tobacco violation but is the only one that is valid/enforced due to a loop hole with the previous two violations. Southbridge is part of the LTCA and on August 3rd, Thomas Variety was found to be in violation (blue minis located) issued a \$1,000.00 fine with a 3-day tobacco suspension to Thomas Variety. Mr. Saudelli explains prior to March 27th LTCA inspectors completed retail education through mailings, and store visits. In addition to having store staff confirm with signatures that they received education. They are aware all tobacco establishments must provide a letter from the manufacturer stating products are NON-flavored.

Owner of Thomas Variety, Mr. Swadia presents defense claiming the incident which occurred in March all the flavored products were thrown away, he then contacted the company providing proof for the board to review this evening. Mr. Swadia claims if the vanilla flavored tobacco is provided by the distributor then why isn't the company being fined when they know it is illegal to sell in Massachusetts.

Mr. Swadia informs the Board he contacted the distributor in August after the inspection to request a document stating its non-flavored and can present to board when received.

Mr. Saudelli expresses to the Board the flavored tobacco ban has been in effect for some time and the Tobacco Control Alliance is diligent on education. The Board must find a procedural error in order to wave the violations. The Board does not have any authority to lessen the violation.

Discussion:

Motion made by A. Postale to postpone the Thomas Variety public hearing until September 15th @ 6:00pm; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call
P. Szugda- yes
A. Postale- yes
D. Grabowski- yes
N. Duffey-yes
J. Quinones-yes

Motion passes unanimously. Public Hearing continued until September 15th @ 6:00pm

Motion is made by A. Postale to postpone Agenda # 9- Old Business A. B. and C. until September 15th; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call
P. Szugda- yes
A. Postale-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
J. Quinones-yes
N. Duffey-yes

Motion passes unanimously. Agenda #9 Old Business delayed until September 15th @ 6:00pm

Agenda #5- COVID Update

a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- Chair Duffey and members review the current numbers and stats provided by Regional Nurse, Brianna Burnham who is handling all the COVID tracing for Southbridge.

Agenda #6- Citizens' Forum- Councilor Marketti publicizes the matter on the garbage issue is important for the community and at some point, the board will need to speak of this at length.

Agenda #7- Discuss and Vote to appoint Emily Quinn, Health Agent as a voting representative to the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Chair Duffey shares Mr. Andrew Pelletier, Health Director was previously a Representative to the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness. With Mr. Pelletier no longer with the Town, Chair expresses interest to continue as a member of the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Motion made by J. Quinones; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call
N. Duffey-yes
A. Postale-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
J. Quinones-yes
P. Szugda-yes

Motion passes unanimously of all present.

Agenda #8- New Business-None

Agenda #9-Old Business

- a. Blight Update
- b. Update on Autumn Clean Up
- c. Update on Autumn Festival

Previously postponed (see above)

Agenda #10- Chairman Announcements- Chair Duffey reads announcements in verbatim (see attached)

Agenda #11- Board Members Announcements

P. Szugda- none
A. Postale- extends welcome to new members
D. Grabowski- welcomes members
J. Quinones- none

PAYT presentation; Ms. Congdon explains the challenges such as illegal dumping claiming lack of education, the cost of things, people don't know about local events and that's where the illegal dumping comes from but not from a pay-as-you-throw program. Other concerns that may arise are fees/tax. This depends how the program is to be set up. Possibly set up a low-income program for those who experience hardships. Ms. Congdon continues with various scenarios regarding multi families, out of town property owners, large families and accountability.

Again, Ms. Congdon discusses the Technical Assistance Grant is available for 80 hours of time. Part of the requirement of the grant is to have a Committee formed to discuss the implementation of the program, schedule meetings (remote/in-person), educate and attend all the presentations/meetings required.

Members of the Board emphasizes on the importance of having a meeting designated to the PAYT program and extending an invitation to Town Council. Chair agrees.

Chair Duffey opens up the 7:30pm Public Hearing at 7:34pm: Declare 209 Marcy St Unfit for Human Habitation. Inspector Quinn gives details: On August 30th a call received from the Southbridge Police Department regarding a complaint at 209 Marcy St for a wellness check. Upon arrival with Building Inspector, Michael Julian met with the occupant/owner, Gail Frank who stated she has not had any running water since February. In addition, an accumulation of clutter, filth, trash/rubbish everywhere in the home determined it was not possible to walk freely with feces on the floor, blocked egress thus determining a fire hazard. During a reinspection yesterday, Ms. Frank stated she has not had the water restored. In addition, a visual inspection revealed that the dwelling has not been cleaned therefore; Inspector Quinn recommends to Declare it Unfit for Human Habitation as there is no running water and it is not safe.

Discussion:

Present is occupant/owner Gail Frank, who states she purchases gallons of water to flush the toilet. Claims she has attempted to hire plumbers but without funds to pay it is difficult as companies do not take payments. She has been fixing the holes in the pipes and has one more to fix at which time she will have running water.

At 6:40pm, Member Quinones abstains from the matter in discussion. A member within the audience employed by the water company advises the board the water is in fact shut off within the basement.

Questions regarding obtaining a dumpster and seeking any other type of assistance/living options arise. Ms. Frank says she has reach out to dumpster companies via email for pricing and has not had any response as of yet.

Chair Duffey questions what is the bare minimal to meet minimal standards for habitation and what could possibly be reasonable time.

Inspector Quinn response: running water, cleared egresses, working detectors, and the weight of the rubbish is of concern. It has been 9 days and still no running water, no movement on trash removal. At a minimum and maximum 7 days- to see some progress.

Brief Discussion:

Chair Duffey explains to Ms. Frank, 7 days at a minimum to restore water, obtain dumpster, access to egresses and daily contact with the department for updates/safety verification.

Motion made by D. Grabowski for the 7 days and conditions above; 2nd by member Postale:

Roll Call

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-abstain

D. Grabowski-yes

P. Szugda-yes

A. Postale-yes

Motion passes 4-1 abstain (Quinones). At 7:53pm member Postale exits the meeting and member Quinones re-joins the meeting.

Presentation continues: Ms. Congdon re-enters for Q&A's, reiterating if the Board wishes to move forward with the Technical Assistance Grant, this would bring Sbdge to the next level for another meeting

to discuss however, if Sbdge is not interested in PAYT, Sbdge would still have 80 hours of assistance through the grant.

Continuing, Ms. Congdon suggests a committee be formed with various residents, members and municipal employees for further in-depth discussion on a program that works for Sbdge and the details. The Board of Health has to be involved with members of the committee.

Q&A continues regarding fees for multi-families, commercial and single-family homes. The detriment and effects on homeowners generating one bag vs. multifamily; landlords vs homeowners; dumpsters vs toters; stickers vs bags; education and outreach; contaminants vs clean; the RFP; littering; and the responsibility of the landlords and illegal dumping; the environmental impact and personal responsibility. Ms. Congdon stresses the importance of re-evaluating the cost of the bags every 3-5 years.

In the end, Ms. Congdon re-iterates the town has to apply for the Technical Assistance Grant for further discussion however, can be available to attend 3 meetings without the grant.

Motion is made by D. Grabowski to postpone further discussion on the PAYT until Sept. 15th; 2nd by J. Quinones:

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

R. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale-excuses

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Agenda #12- Schedule Next Meeting – September 15, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Agenda #13- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn is made by member Szugda; 2nd by J. Quinones:

Roll Call

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski- yes

P. Szugda-yes

J. Quinones- yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion passes unanimously 4-1 excused (Postale). Meeting is adjourned at 8:44pm

NOTE: Video recording can be reviewed on Southbridge Community Television unfortunately not enough storage.

**Southbridge
looking at Sustainable Material
Management**

Irene Congdon
MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator
Thursday, September 8, 2022

CentralWAMac@gmail.com Cell 413-348-9353

1

Why PAYT?

- ▶ 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan published October 2021
- ▶ Goal to reduce disposal by 30% by 2030 and 90% by 2050
- ▶ PAYT is one waste reduction strategy that MassDEP has prioritized in the SWMP
- ▶ Promote and provide financial and technical assistance to municipalities to implement PAYT

www.mass.gov/guides/solid-waste-master-plan

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Why now?

<p>1. Budget planning for when Casella's contract ends 2024</p> <p>With the landfill closed- no revenue coming</p> <p>When contract end price for trash and recycling collection, disposal and processing will be doubled?</p>	<p>3. Have a fair program that residents can afford</p>
<p>2. Staffing changes</p> <p>Need to plan now</p>	<p>4. Grant</p> <p>Technical Assistance available up to 80 hours</p> <p>Sustainable Material Recovery Grant</p> <p>PAYT grant up to \$30 per HH</p> <p>Recycling Dividend Program money</p>

2


Why PAYT

- ▶ Single most effective tool to reduce waste and increase recycling
- ▶ Equitable - like utilities, you pay for what you use
- ▶ Environmental benefits - reduces trash sent to landfills and incinerators, which reduces emissions
- ▶ More reuse and recycling less waste
- ▶ Savings in avoided disposal costs
- ▶ Signals to residents the true costs of SW management

5

What is PAYT?


- ▶ Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) = Solid waste program where residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of household trash. Residents are not charged a direct fee for recycling.
- ▶ This creates a financial incentive to reduce, reuse, and recycle more; and waste less.
- ▶ Sometimes referred to as a "Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART)" or "Waste Reduction" program.



3

Trash / Recycling Funding Options

- ▶ Taxes
- ▶ Flat fee
- ▶ Imprinted Trash Bags (specific colors w/ town name/seal)
- ▶ Combinations
 - Taxes cover staff, Flat fee covers collection
 - residents pay for trash bags used



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PAYT Programs Options

1 Trash Bags

Trash collection is only done when trash bags are placed outside the municipality's curb or street. The bags are available for sale at a local grocery and convenience store.

2 Stickers or Tags

Residents purchase special green stickers or tags and affix them to their own trash bags. Stickers include a flat fee and bags being a pay-as-you-go.

3 Trash Cart or Barrel

Weekly collection of separate 35-gallon trash carts weekly for PAYT program for curbside programs. Some curbside collection of 64-gallon trash carts for bags or stickers.

4 Hybrid Program

One curbside program covers 35-gallon carts and the other is an opt-in for all services. Residents pay a flat fee for bags or stickers.


Photo courtesy of Massachusetts

Challenges & How to Address Them

- ▶ Public perception that the Fee is a Tax
 - ▶ Make the program revenue-neutral by reducing the flat fee so that it covers only the fixed costs, while the unit-based fees cover variable cost of disposal
- ▶ Adverse effects on low-income HHHs
 - ▶ Offer hardship waivers or lower rates for low-income, senior citizens, veterans
- ▶ Increases in illegal dumping
 - ▶ Studies in MA and nationwide show no difference in illegal dumping

PAYT Programs in MA

- ▶ Curbside
 - ▶ 46 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 306,241 HHHs
- ▶ Drop-off
 - ▶ 96 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 129,625 HHHs
- ▶ Combination Curbside & Drop-off Program
 - ▶ 13 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 81,206 HHHs



Funding & Incentives

Technical Assistance (TA) Grant

- ▶ 80 hours dedicated in-kind technical assistance from your MAC
- ▶ Provide background information on comparable PAYT communities
- ▶ Set up site visits at communities with PAYT programs
- ▶ Provide financial analysis of PAYT and variations under consideration
- ▶ Attend public meetings and forums
- ▶ Provide support for public outreach materials such as FAQ documents and PPT presentations
- ▶ Help develop of Draft Implementation Plan

PAYT Stats in MA

- ▶ 155 municipalities in MA have a PAYT program (out of 351)
 - 517,000 (or 27%) households in MA
- ▶ Trash is reduced by 25-50% in communities with PAYT
- ▶ In 2020, trash tonnage in PAYT municipalities was 517 pounds, or 29% LESS than in non-PAYT
 - PAYT: averaged 1,239 pounds per HH per year
 - Non-PAYT: averaged 1,756 pounds per HH per year
 - Southbridge 1507 lbs of trash in 2021 EBrookfield, Lunenburg, Maynard, Worcester are at or under 1000 lbs, Upton 1100 lbs.

Funding & Incentives

SMRP Grant for PAYT Program Funding

- ▶ New Curbside PAYT Program
 - ▶ One bag/barrel free (e.g., hybrid program) = \$40 per HH
 - ▶ No bags/barrels free (e.g., full PAYT w/ bags) = \$20 per HH
 - ▶ One 35-gallon trash cart = \$30 per HH
 - ▶ One 64-gallon trash cart collected every other week = \$10 per HH

Programs that Compliment PAYT

- ▶ Organics (Food Waste) Collection - either municipally run or through private subscription
- ▶ Bulky Item Collection - \$5 fee for certain items sent for recycling and/or disposal
- ▶ Reuse Programs - swap events, library of things, etc.



Board of Health Chairperson's Announcements 09-08-22:

- As part MADEP's goal to reduce trash disposal statewide MassDEP has expanded its current waste disposal bans by adding mattresses (box springs), and textiles to the list of materials banned from disposal or transport for disposal in Massachusetts, effective **November 1, 2022**. **Residents will have the following options to recycle their mattresses and box springs:**
 - **After November 1, 2022**, residents can call Casella at 1-800-Casella for a curbside pick-up. The cost is \$35.00 *per item*. Each mattress or box spring **MUST** be placed in a plastic mattress disposal bag (these can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowes, or Walmart). They **will not** be collected if they are not in a plastic bag.
 - **After November 1, 2022**, residents will have the option of bringing mattresses to Casella's Oxford Transfer Station on the same day as the quarterly Household Hazardous Waste Collection days for a fee of \$25.00 each item.
- **On October 1, 2022** – Southbridge Health Department is hosting a "Take Back Day" for *all* Southbridge residents at the DPW Complex, 185 Guelphwood Road, from 8:00am–12:00pm. Items included will be mattresses/box springs for \$20.00 each, electronics (priced per pound), car tires for \$3.00 each, and textiles at no-charge. Each mattress or box spring **MUST** be placed in a plastic mattress disposal bag. They **will not** be accepted if they are not in a plastic bag. Cash or check only. Textiles must be DRY.
- Please do not put Textiles in the trash or recycling totes. Textiles should be placed in one of the collection boxes throughout Town. Visit "thinkreduce.com" for a list of locations.
- **Rain barrels:** are available through the Southbridge Health Department for \$25.00 each for Southbridge residents. These are being subsidized by the MADEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant (we paid \$60 each.)
- **Compost bins:** are available through the Southbridge Health Department for \$25.00 each for Southbridge residents. These are being subsidized by the MADEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant.
- **Composting Demonstration:** Anna Smith will be holding a Composting Demonstration at the Jacobs Edwards Library, on September 19, 2022 at 10:00am.
- **Curbside Yard Waste Collection:** will run from October 17, 2022 to November 25, 2022.
- The Yard Waste **drop off** at the DPW yard, 185 Guelphwood Road will remain open until November 25, 2022. Commercial yard waste will not be accepted.

