

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 the Police Department. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp, and Brooke Canada present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 5/9/23. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 6 \$329,244.52, General # 1016 \$105,429.66, General # 1017 \$34,250.00, School # 1014 \$103,321.49, and School # 1015 \$2,139.32. So voted.

Financial:

- a. Highway Spending Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following amounts for Highway spending request-\$250.00 hydraulic motor for sander, \$500.00 for 125lb barrel of grease, \$500.00 muffler for sander, \$800.00 welding steel plates for plow, \$700.00 for salt neutralizer. So voted.
- b. NBEMA Spending Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve \$500.00 for NBEMA to repair their electronic sign board. So voted.

Old Business:

- a. Amend Still Hart's One Day Liquor Lic Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to amend Still Hart's One Day Liquor license to October 7. So voted.

New Business:

- a. Appoint Police Officer: Mr. Petraitis explained that the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Chief Mark Smith went over the numbers and realized it's more economical to hire a full-time officer as opposed to paying over time. Officer Nick Newman explained he's been a resident in North Brookfield since 2013 and with the local police department for over a year. Nick put himself through the bridge academy over the last 6 months to keep his qualifications up to date. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Nicholas Newman to the position of full-time police officer. So voted. The Board welcomed Officer Newman aboard. Chief Mark Smith said that Officer Newman has saved the police department a lot of money by working shifts as a part-timer, and that he learned fast and is an asset to the department.
- b. East Brookfield Town Beach Letter-postponed
- c. Fire Chief Joe Holway Turnout Gear: Chief Joe Holway said his turnout gear lease is up this year, it costs about \$8,000.00/year. He's hoping to carry the lease over and get 18 new sets, the price has gone up substantially. The gear has a 10-year span and rated for 400-1000 degrees. He said he spoke to Ashley Barre and she asked him to look at different options for this purchase. Chief Holway said he could rotate 6 sets by purchasing 4 and getting 2 through a state grant (grant is about \$12,500.00). He also needs 30 hoods which are all outdated. They currently have 18 sets of turnout gear, and new firefighters will stay on pumps/outside the fire. He said other Fire Chiefs rotate their sets, old sets to go the pump operator. Chief said he knows it's a tough year but doesn't want to cut corners on air packs and turnout gear. He can get 2 sets at just under \$8,000.00, and he's got a little wiggle room with the 18 sets he currently has. He applied to get

all sets through AFG but was turned down, he believes the state grant is a solid chance, but doesn't know when that grant opportunity will dry up. Mr. Petraitis said right now we are trying to figure out the budget as it stands. Joe Trentacosta asked if they needed to put a deposit down, Chief Holway said no. Joe Trentacosta asked if we ordered the sets now (due to long lead time) could we begin paying in FY25? Chief Holway was unsure but said the interest rates are rising, anything under \$50,000.00 is about 7%. He said we need to get a better rotation of sets, about 6 or 4 a year to be budgeted annually. Mr. Tripp asked if the \$8,000.00 he's been paying is part of his budget, and if Chief Holway is looking for \$15,000.00 or just \$7,000.00 (not including the \$8,000.00 already budgeted). Chief Holway said the \$8,000.00 he has is to pay for the last lease payment, so he is looking for an additional \$15,000.00 this year, and then in FY25 he will need \$15,000.00 to buy more gear. Mr. Petraitis asked about a timeline to find the money. Darrin Anderson said its about 16 weeks from time of order to receive the gear. Chief Holway said he doesn't mind rotating the gear, but feels better with fresh gear. He's got between 28 and 32 firefighters at the station. Mr. Petraitis said we'd have to find the money first. Chief Holway said he appreciates it and he will work with the Board, applying for grants, and getting the number's together for lease vs. purchase.

- d. Accept Resignation Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept the resignation of Michelle Petraitis from the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. So voted.
- e. Appointment to Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Mr. Petraitis asked Joe Trentacosta if he knew about the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Joe is aware, although there haven't been meetings in a couple years. Joe said he enjoys being on Finance Committee and Mr. Petraitis agreed that Joe has been a great asset. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Joseph Trentacosta to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. So voted.
- f. Appointment Council on Aging Alternate: Tara Hayes applied, and the Council on Aging agreed, to be an alternate member of their board. Mr. Petraitis said that Tara does a lot for our community. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Tara Hayes to Council on Aging as an alternate member. So voted.
- g. Sewer NetDMR Subscriber Agreement: Mrs. Canada read a letter from Sewer Superintendent Jim Nyberg that explained EPA is requiring all monitoring data be entered into the NetDMR system and that the Board need to authorize Jim to do this. Mr. Tripp asked why its called NetDMR when its for EPA, Mrs. Canada said DMR stands for Discharge Monitoring Report, which is through a central data exchange. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to authorize this request. So voted.
- h. Copier Quote Review: Mr. Petraitis said the Town Offices need a new copier and asked if the old one is junk. Ashley explained that we can no longer get supplies for the machine due to an error with the contract. When the contract with CBS/Xerox was signed they were supposed to deliver a new machine but then said it was on back order. After 8 months of waiting for the machine our old vendor took their machine back. CBS/Xerox was able to get us a "loaner" machine, but never delivered the new machine. The representative assigned to North Brookfield left the company and no new rep was assigned. After calling the company weekly for 6 weeks Ashley was finally able to get the name of their assigned rep, but was told the rep would not get back to us. Ashley sent emails, left voicemails, and contacted the company directly through their website but

received no response. At this point the Town Offices had no toner and could no longer make copies. Ashley reached out to a few companies to get quotes. Two companies came in low and competed for the best price. Based on the number of copies we make Ricoh looks to be the less expensive option. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the contract with Ricoh. So voted. There was a brief discussion about the lease agreement.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said the Town House Committee is hosting Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 30 at Common Ground to raise funds for the Town House renovation.

Brandon also said Still Hart's is having a fundraiser to benefit the Playground on Saturday, October 7.

Mr. Petraitis said he saw the Parks and Recreation Committee out working, which is great to see. He asked if they get help from volunteers, Brandon said very rarely. Mr. Petraitis said any one who wants to volunteer can contact Parks and Rec or the Board of Selectmen.

Announcements:

Resumes for the COA Director position are due no later than Friday, September 22.

Charter/Spectrum Survey-LPAC is working on getting a survey on the town's website regarding the Charter service in town. LPAC has been working to get the contract settled, but Charter/Spectrum have been dragging their feet. The Board thanked LPAC and Ashley for getting this moving.

Mr. Tripp read a letter from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School regarding working on Huck's building. Mr. Petraitis said this would save us money, and Mr. Tripp said they've done other municipal projects.

There being no further business, at 6:43PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre