

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis and Brooke Canada present.

Joe Holway was in to discuss the renovations at Huck's, Fire, and Highway: Joe said he's met with Jason Benoit and he has almost all his estimates in. Joe is working with Jeff from Tecton, the architect, and Tony from Colliers, the OPM. Joe will be meeting with Tony on Wednesday at noon to tour the facilities due for renovation. Joe said that Tony and Jeff work together on a lot of projects, they will both protect our interests. Jeff will review the estimates and send them to the professional estimator, if everyone is in agreement the project will be put out to bid, and we should be able to work on all 3 buildings at once. Tony will supervise the contractor we choose and he'll meet with the Board of Selectmen to go over the contract and talk about how much supervision we want from him. Joe said a lot of local contractors have been kind enough to give us free estimates, and he's had a lot of people stop by to see when the project is going out to bid. The numbers should balance out on the tax rate, we should have some debt falling off. Joe said there are no frills with the renovations, trying to keep it inexpensive, the big money will come with the heating and electrical upgrades needed. Joe said this will be much cheaper than building a new fire house (estimates up to about 12 million dollars for a new building).

Joe asked about Holden Funds, Mr. Petraitis said it was approved last week. Joe said that East Brookfield is looking for a new full time medic, we still have ALS contract with Brookfield as well. EMS just had their state inspection, they've gone 8 years with good reports.

Complaints about GGG: Ashley received complaints about the smell and general upkeep of the Green Gold property, Mr. Petraitis said he would talk to the committee.

Bay Path Collective Bargaining: Ashley received a letter from Bay Path asking for a representative, she will reach out to Jim Caldwell to see if he's still our rep and interested in attending a ZOOM meeting for Bay Path.

Tara Hayes-Town Beach issues: Tara handed out a packet with documents regarding the Town Beach, she said since we're coming into budget season we should make a decision about what to do moving forward. She provided a list of possible resolutions: enforce original agreement, have joint meetings with both North Brookfield and East Brookfield committees in a public location, we can switch off locations (EB one month, NB next month), we should be getting multiple bids for services such as porta potties, have written policies for both committees to adhere to, involve the Lake Lashaway Association, have buy-in from residents that want to use the beach, if there's no resolution we could sever the agreement, have East Brookfield pay taxes on the property, and North Brookfield residents can still use the beach as EB wants it to remain open to the public. Tara said she did a town beach survey a few years ago and many people are in favor of parking passes. Michelle Thayer, the only remaining member of the Town Beach Committee, has reached out to East Brookfield to discuss issues but they are non-responsive. Mrs. Canada said we've been talking about creating a Parks and Rec Committee, Mr. Petraitis said the problem with the beach is that EB is involved but won't cooperate with us. Mr. Petraitis suggested we reach out to Town Counsel. Mrs. Canada suggested we meet with EB-BOS, Ashley said we've done that a few times.

Tara said that Jason Benoit will help get measurements for the basketball court and track at the Playground and get quotes for material.

Michelle Petraitis reviewed the Town Beach agreement between NB and EB and said it doesn't specify that EB doesn't pay taxes. That was a vote by the NB-BoS, Mr. Petraitis questioned if that could be undone. Ashley will email Town Counsel and ask about taxes, and severing the agreement.

There being no further business, at 7:15PM, Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre