Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the North Brookfield Police Department. John Tripp and Brooke Canada present.

Mr. Tripp wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following minutes: 10/18/22, 10/18/22 exec session, 10/25/22, 11/8/22, 11/22/22, 11/29 (with Finance Committee), 12/6/22, 12/12/22, 12/12/22 exec session, 12/13/22, and 12/20/22 executive session. So voted. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to release the executive session minutes from 10/18/22. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve School # 1041 for $88,788.09, General # 1042 for $191,665.45, General # 1043 for $5,383.00, and Payroll # 17 for $322,337.51. So voted.

Financial Items:

Mr. Tripp read a letter from the ARPA committee recommending approval to purchase and install new software for the Assessors, the annual cost of the software will need to be funded by the general budget. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the use of ARPA funds for the purchase of this software. So voted.

Mr. Tripp read a second letter from ARPA to spend $296.00 on a new battery for an AED machine in the Town Offices. The letter stated that the ARPA committee hadn’t yet voted to approve this request, so Mr. Tripp tabled this request until they have the opportunity to vote.

New Business:

Accept Resignation: Mr. Tripp read a letter from Michelle Petraitis, resigning from the Finance Committee. Michelle has many commitments, Mr. Tripp and Mrs. Canada both expressed their thanks and appreciation for everything Michelle has done and continues to do in North Brookfield. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept Michelle’s resignation. So voted.

PVPC Town/Owner Amendment: Mr. Tripp explained this property is in Brookfield, we partnered with Brookfield for a CDBG Housing Rehab Grant. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the amendment. So voted.

Revised Recycle Policy: Mr. Tripp stated that the Board of Health revised the Recycling Policy, Mr. Tripp said he had some questions and is going to table this item until the Chairman can review the policy. Mrs. Canada agreed to table this.

Fuss & O’Neill contract: Mr. Tripp said this contract amendment is for Cider Mill Bridge project, we received money from the state years ago. Ashley received a revised contract, but Mr. Tripp would like the Chairman to review before signing. Mr. Tripp and Mrs. Canada agreed to table this.

Appointment: Mr. Tripp stated that a member of the Highway Department left, he read a letter from Jason Benoit asking the Board to appoint Andrew McDermott. Andrew has working for a highway department in the past, Jason feels he will be a good fit. Mrs. Canada asked about his salary, Mr. Tripp said that Andrew would need to start out lower than Todd was getting, but it would be up to Jason. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Andrew McDermott to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator for the Highway Department. So voted.

Announcements:

Town Clerk-Mr. Tripp read a letter from the Town Clerk about the May Annual Town Election. Mr. Tripp noted that the public can request a copy of this letter, Mrs. Canada said she would ask the Town Clerk to put this on the website.

Public Comment: Mr. Tripp noted the public would have a one-minute time limit for tonight’s meeting.

 Brandon Avery said he received an email from the Massachusetts Historical Society, they are finding the oldest tree in each town, he asked for help in finding this information.

Brandon said the Master Plan, along with the Open Space plan are on the Town website, and printed copies will be available shortly. Mr. Tripp thanked Brandon for his help in the Master Plan.

Joanne Carey said the oldest tree in North Brookfield is a Sycamore on Elm Street, she will get the address of it. She stated she wanted to bring up the Board of Health surveys and feels there is inappropriate language. Joanne said the survey is available on the website. Mr. Tripp said he would read a printed version, but has not seen the surveys.

Tina Floria wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

At 6:20PM, there being no further business, Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre