

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 in the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp, and Brooke Canada present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve minutes from 7/1/22. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve minutes from 11/17/23. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve minutes from 1/27/23. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve minutes from 2/14/23. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve General warrant # 1045 for \$120,455.31, School # 1044 for \$82,402.27 and Payroll # 18 for \$331,632.97. So voted.

Financial: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve a Reserve Fund transfer to the Fire Department in the amount of \$3,600.00 to pay for drawings for the Fire Department and Highway renovation project. So voted. (Note: This transfer was not approved by Finance Committee).

Old Business:

Fuss & O'Neill Contract Amendment-Mr. Petraitis read a contract amendment for F&O. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded a motion to sign the amended contract with Fuss and O'Neill for Cider Mill Bridge Project. So voted. Mrs. Canada asked if the design was being redone, Ashley confirmed it was not.

BOH Recycle Policy-Ethan Melad said there were some questions about the policy, he explained the original policy was adopted in 1997, this is effectively the same but updated with current applications, and only applicable if practical and affordable to use recycled products. Mr. Tripp said he was concerned this policy would require using recycled oil for vehicles, which would void any warranties. Ethan confirmed recycled oil would not be required. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept and adopt the updated recycle policy. So voted.

New Business:

Hearing to Opt out of Vote by Mail for Municipal Elections-Mrs. Canada asked to table this hearing until March 14th to give the public more notice. Mr. Petraitis explained the Town Clerk was going to attend and explain about this and the other voting options available and the money savings. Mr. Tripp said only a small percentage of ballots were returned, Mrs. Canada said 60% were returned. Mrs. Canada moved to table the public hearing until March 14th, Mr. Petraitis seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Petraitis agreed it makes sense to postpone the hearing and allow more notice to the public and time for asking questions. So voted.

Request for Resources-Mr. Petraitis read the request from Corwin Castaguay and Rural Justice Network to host a Small Town Pride Event. Tashena Holmes explained they held this in West Brookfield last year and it was successful with music and vendors. Mr. Petraitis asked Tashena to get something in writing describing the event. Corwin Castaguay questioned what the Board wanted to know, Mr. Petraitis wants a brief explanation of the event.

Forest Park Appointment-Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Andrew Wiewel to the Town Forest Park Committee. Discussion: Andrew explained he's relatively new to the area, he met with Jamie Gilman who encouraged Andrew to join the committee. Jamie said Andrew's already been working with them cleaning up the park. So voted.

Library Director Appt: Mrs. Canada read a letter from the Library Trustees recommending Amy Vessella as the new library director. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Amy Vessella as the new Library Director. So voted. Amy was not in attendance at this meeting but will come to the next meeting to meet the Board.

Quit Claim Deed-Mr. Petraitis read the deed information, this is a small parcel of land on Collins Rd that Jeff Pollier donated to the Town. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept the deed. So voted.

Fire Report for January 2023-Mr. Tripp read the report from Fire Chief Joe Holway. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Review Articles for STM: The Board members took turns reading the 19 articles for the March 10, 2023 Special Town Meeting Mr. Petraitis noted the warrant has been posted.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said Conservation Commission is working on a policy regarding the use of Open Space (not Town Forest or Rail Trail) and asked for ideas from the Board. Mr. Petraitis asked Brandon to email a copy of the policy.

Joanne Carey said the Board of Health in partnership with Leicester put out surveys to groom children and cause significant harm. Joanne read a few specific questions on the survey. She said most of the surveys are for parents, but one is directed at the children. Mr. Petraitis asked if Joanne spoke with the Board of Health, she said she spoke with Trevor Bruso. Mr. Petraitis explained that Trevor is no longer on the Board of Health. Ethan Melad told Joanne she can come to a BOH meeting. Joanne explained the questions asked children about their gender and sexual activity and asked why that's the BOH's business and is concerned this survey has been sent to the school. Mr. Petraitis explained that Joanne needs to address her concerns directly with the Board of Health and School. Joanne said she will attend the next BOH meeting and speak with the principal at the school.

Announcements:

Mrs. Canada read an update from the Friends of the Town House

Mr. Petraitis read an update from the Town Clerk on the offices for Election

There being no further business, at 6:47PM Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into executive session for reason # 2, contract negotiations. So voted. Roll Call: Jason Petraitis, yes; John Tripp, yes; Brooke Canada yes. Mr. Petraitis noted the Board would exit executive only to adjourn.

At 7:42PM the Board exited executive session. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted-Ashley Barre