

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:34PM on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp, and Brooke Canada were all present. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to enter into executive session for reason # 2, to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Petraitis noted the Board would exit executive session to enter into open meeting. Roll Call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes; Canada, yes. So voted.

At 6:08 PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Roll Call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes; Canada, yes. So voted.

Jason Benoit had two items to discuss. He's working on getting quotes for the tractor, and spoke to someone in Connecticut that had given Mr. Petraitis a quote. Jason said that machine doesn't compare to the machine he priced out. The John Deere is 105 HP, a Chinese company bought the rights to all John Deere equipment up to 105 HP, 5 more HP it would be German made. The Chinese version is 3 months out, and the German version is 48 weeks out. The Ahearn quote for the Kubota is in stock and built, we don't have a choice and need to get this tractor. Mr. Petraitis asked if the machine needed 4-wheel drive. Jason said that's the only way they're made. Mr. Petraitis asked if the machine needs to be that big, Jason said the length of the boom they have now is way too short, needs to be 22-24 feet in length. The Chinese model is only 18 feet, the Kubota is 22 feet. Jason said we should jump at that model. Mr. Petraitis said he would let Jason know on Thursday. Mr. Tripp asked about trade in value, Jason said no trade in offered for John Deere model and it's 48 weeks out.

Jason said he met with the Bay Path director and trade staff and gave them a look at the old Huck's building. They are very interested in the project and can do the heating system. Mr. Petraitis asked if they had looked at the other Highway building and Fire, Jason said no, that's not his business. Jason said nothing is written in stone but they would like a phone call when they know the ballot vote passed and they may be able to start work in the September semester.

Representatives from East Brookfield Board of Selectmen and Recreation Committee were present to discuss the Town Beach. Mr. Petraitis said the North and East Brookfield Beach Committees haven't got along well in the past. He said we looked at the Beach agreement between North and East Brookfield and there are some issues. The original was signed by East Brookfield's Planning Board, and the agreement is only good for 25 years, given this was signed in 1981 this agreement is long void. East Brookfield agreed this is old, not enforceable, but they want to setup a new agreement. Mr. Petraitis said we have to discuss a new agreement, EB said because it's budget season we need to share costs. Both BoS boards agreed to speak with their respective committees about coming up with terms for the agreement. EB said that NB hasn't shared costs for the beach in a long time, Mr. Petraitis said we need to figure out the details. EB said they were promised \$7,000.00, Mrs. Canada pointed out there was an issue with the invoice sent to us, EB said it's the same as always. All parties agreed that financing the beach is an issue. Leo Fayard pointed EB shoulder's the cost of swim lessons, lifeguards, and maintenance, and said if NB can't commit to giving EB \$15,000/year no agreement will be made. Leo also stated that in order to have stickers and beach patrol that would cost over \$30,000/year. Mr. Tripp why it would cost that much, Leo said for salaries to patrol the beach. Mr. Tripp suggested the Police Department do random patrols and check for stickers. Leo said he's called NBPD for help on the beach with drugs and people using the beach as a boat launch but that NBPD won't help. Mrs. Canada said if people had stickers there would be more buy-in. EB said the purchase of stickers wouldn't cover the cost

of the stickers and someone to patrol the beach. Leo said you can't assume non-residents are causing the issues. Leo said the EBPD can't patrol the beach because it's in NB, but that Dave Churchey said the beach is too far away for NB to patrol. Leo suggested EB be allowed to patrol it, just a cruiser every couple hours would help. Both East and North Brookfield parties agreed to come up with an agreement and meet again to review. Discussion about the parking passes took place, East Brookfield is not in favor. Leo Fayard proposed a situation where a grandmother or babysitter taking care of kids, if they forget the parking pass the cops would kick them off the beach. EB did say there are problems with people driving on the beach, launching from the beach, drinking alcohol, and loud music. EB said they've put up new signs. There was also a brief discussion about the beach not being handicap accessible because there are no ramps and it is not graded correctly.

The Boards then discussed work at the Town Beach. Leo said there is a plan to make the parking lot bigger and regrade it. EB is trying to control the erosion on the beach and have a plan in place. They are going to Conservation Commission to get approval and are looking for an in-kind match from North Brookfield in the form of a couple days' worth of work from NB Highway Dept. The plan is to send the water along the edge of the road, right now it goes down the middle of the road. This will be a low cost and effective plan and both EB and NB highway dept's felt they could handle the work. Mr. Tripp asked if EB wanted the help of our employees and equipment, EB said yes, they're not looking for funding. Mr. Tripp asked if they had talked to Jason Benoit, they said yes, he met with their highway superintendent and spoke about the plan, both felt it would be a simple. EB wants to get rid of the telephone poles in the parking lot. They want to build retaining walls. Leo said there is a proposal to build a gazebo at the entrance of the parking lot.

Leo wants to clear up issues with the payroll. Mr. Petraitis said there was an issue with details being redacted but they will look it over. There was some discussion about setting another meeting date to go over a potential agreement between East and North Brookfield.

BSC Group Contract: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the contract with BSC Group for continued services for the Complete Streets Project. So voted.

Assistant Collector Interview process: Mr. Petraitis said all members will read the resumes and then start interviewing the candidates.

Spending Freeze: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a spending freeze on discretionary spending, all purchases over \$100.00 must be requested to the Board of Selectmen in writing prior to purchase. So voted. Mr. Tripp said he already ordered gravel for the Rail Trail and parts for the tractor, and that Highway department ordered an \$8,000.00 transmission. The Board agreed that since that was ordered before the spending freeze it's fine.

There being no further business, at 7:52PM Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre

