

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00PM in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Mr. Tripp moved and Mr. Petraitis seconded a motion to approve the minutes from 1/14 and 1/21. So voted.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded a motion to approve and sign the contract for FY 20 with NBES. So voted.

Diane Nichols from the Senior Center was in to discuss an available position at the Senior Center. She had trained an assistant a year ago who has now left for a better position. Previously the position was held by a gentlemen and they never replaced him like for like. The position was 18 hours a week, and when replaced it was reduced to 15 hours a week. Diane has had to take on extra duties to cover the loss of hours, and the now loss of her assistant. Diane would like to post the position for 18 hours a week. Mr. Petraitis says he understands and we'll try our best to accommodate but need to speak with Mr. Kiley and Finance Committee first. Health insurance costs are set to increase drastically so that also plays a factor. Diane handed out a spreadsheet with her previous years' budgets to show how she has kept costs to a minimum and decreased when possible. This position is not an entry level position; she expects a lot from this person.

Diane spoke about all the programs she has introduced to the Senior Center, the outreach she does, the partnership with DTA where she attended multiple training sessions and didn't get paid. Diane relies heavily on volunteers; she's got over 40 volunteers that put in about 2200 hours last year. Mr. Petraitis asked if she had spoken with the school about volunteerism. Diane stated she did have interest from students but the school would not allow them to leave during school hours, which is when the center is open. Mr. Petraitis said we would do what we can and meet with Finance Committee and thanked Diane for coming and giving us all the details.

The Board received quotes from tree services to take down multiple trees around the new town sign. Mr. Tripp mentioned he has someone who wants to donate a new pine tree for Christmas decorations.

Mr. Tripp spoke about trees on a homeowner's property adjacent to the Water Department. Trees had fallen onto the home, their insurance paid for repairs, but not removal of trees. More trees have now fallen onto the property, avoiding the house, and another tree looks to be ready to fall. All trees on Water Department property. Mr. Tripp got a quote of \$5000.00 to remove debris and one standing tree. Ashley will contact Town Counsel to see who's financially responsible to pay for the removal.

A little discussion about Sewer rates. Superintendent Jim Nyberg had emailed the board the new sewer rate, Superintendent Richard Kennan did not agree with the rate. The Board reiterated that Sewer sets the rate and Water bills. Ashley will contact Jim, Richard, and Kelly about this matter.

Superintendent of Schools Richard Lind requested a representative from the Board to serve on a Regionalization Study Committee. Mr. Tripp moved and Mr. Petraitis seconded a motion that Jason Petraitis be the Boards representative. So voted. Mr. Petraitis volunteered to be the rep as long as the meetings coincide with his schedule.

Ashley was contacted by a resident about a parking issue in front of the library. The board agreed that parking spaces should be painted to avoid future issues. Ashley will contact Superintendent Jason Benoit and ask that he take care of this.

There will be a public information session on February 13th in the KIVA room at the high school to discuss future sewer plans with regards to North and East Brookfield's. Residents of each town are welcome to attend.

Senior Center policy review was moved to next week.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the resignation of April Pagnoni from the DTDC. So voted. Mr. Petraitis passed along his well wishes.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the Pro Shred quote for destruction of documents at the Town Hall. So voted. Ashley will make appointment.

John Couture stopped in and Mr. Tripp asked about the local Masonic Lodge putting up signs, Mr. Couture said that was fine.

At 7:40PM, there being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre