

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03pm on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at the Senior Center. Dale Kiley, John Tripp, and Jason Petraitis all present.

### Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of June 16<sup>th</sup>. So voted.

### Approval of Warrants:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to approve the following warrants: School Warrant # 1063 for \$115,874.67, General and School Warrant # 1064 for \$47,619.51, General Warrant # 1065 for \$153,472.43 and Payroll Warrant # 26 for \$464,597.85. So voted.

### Financial:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a reserve fund request made by the Police Department in the amount of \$1340.92 for the Police Salary. So voted. This request is being made because Sargent Donais was promoted and those funds were not allocated at the beginning of FY20.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a reserve fund request made by the Police Department in the amount of \$618.19 for the Police Overtime account. So voted. This request is being made because there was a shortage in overtime funds because of the need for extra police officers during the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a transfer request of \$187.50 from Sick Leave Buy Back to Purchase of Service to cover the balance of the laser show scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. So voted. Ethan Melad from the Board of Health asked if this was the laser show for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Kiley said yes. Ethan asked if other funds had been appropriated for the event. Mr. Kiley said transfers were made from unused Town Beach funds. Other funds have been donated as well.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a transfer request of \$6.00 from Sewer Salary other to Sewer Superintendent Salary. So voted. This transfer request was made because the account was underbudgeted due to the leap year.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a transfer request of \$90.68 from Sewer Salary other to Sewer Salary Assistant. So voted. This transfer request was made because the account was underbudgeted due to the leap year.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a transfer request of \$485.04 from Sewer Salary other to Sewer Salary Operator. So voted. This transfer request was made because the account was underbudgeted due to the leap year.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a transfer request of \$427.50 from Planning Board Advertising (\$300) and Planning Board Supplies (\$127.50) to Planning Board

Revolving Revenue. So voted. This request was made because the Revolving fund was showing a negative balance for two years.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following CDBG invoices: Invoice # 4 for \$7,891.34 and Invoice # 69219 for \$8,371.00. So voted. These invoices are part of the FY19 Community Development Block Grant which covers rehabbing houses in town and an infrastructure study of the West Side.

Mr. Kiley announced that Donald Doe is retiring July 1<sup>st</sup> from Wiring Inspector for the Town of North Brookfield. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept Mr. Doe's resignation and appoint Troy Brown as the new wiring inspector. So voted. Mr. Tripp stated that Mr. Doe has been wiring inspector for 18-20 years and thanked him. He explained that this is a thankless job and he's going to miss Don. Mr. Tripp also explained that Troy Brown has been assistant to Don Doe for many years. Keith Fontaine has agreed to be the assistant wiring inspector. Jason Benoit asked if that was a conflict of interest because they both do work for the Town. Mr. Tripp explained that they can't inspect their own work, so that's why there's an assistant. They can inspect each other's work.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Keith Fontaine as assistant wiring inspector. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a one-day liquor license request from Still Hartz café to for wines and malt only on July 4, 2020. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into a contract with TPX and Valley Communications to upgrade the phone lines at the Town Offices. So voted. Tara Hayes, Town Clerk, worked closely with the company to get a plan for a better phone system. The money for this upgrade will be paid out of grant money from the CARES Act, which covers updating technology. The monthly payments will be the same that we're paying now for Verizon. The upgrade will allow departments to transfer calls and place people on hold, as well as many other features.

Public Comment: Mr. Kiley opened the floor for public comment.

Ethan Melad from the Board of Health was present via ZOOM. He asked the Board to discuss the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and the funding. Mr. Kiley stated that there is a parade planned at 10am, starting at the Fire Station, up Main Street, down grove and ending at the Common. A scaled back memorial day celebration, a dedication for the Town, recognize the NBHS class of 2020, raise and lower the flag, taps, read the names of the deceased veterans in Town. Other activities on the common, most has been paid for by donations, Hannaford's donated food, North Brookfield Liquors made a donation, Algoo is planning on making a donation, Playground Committee donated, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen donated and we've received anonymous donations. Kathy Crevier also made a donation.

Ethan asked if the Board had any more information about events planned. Mr. Kiley said there will be music, Tequila Mockingbird is donating their sound system. There will be events for adults and kids, a patriotic laser show at 9pm, and the playground committee was thinking about doing smores.

Ethan Melad made a statement on behalf of himself and the Board of Health. He informed the BOS that parades and live music are prohibited under the current guidelines and the BOH advises the BOS to cancel the event. Games, fun, and food pose serious health risks to North Brookfield, cases are rising,

there is a second wave likely coming, and this is not the time to do this. Ethan starting reading the current guidelines as of June 6 regarding the gatherings.

Mr. Kiley stated that some of Ethan's statements are factually inaccurate: cases are on the decline, not rising. North Brookfield had 16 cases, there is a huge gap between the number of positive cases and the number of deaths. As of June 5<sup>th</sup> there is a new viewpoint that 21 days after a positive test result you are recovered, which would put North Brookfield at possibly 2 positive cases right now. The position of the Board of Selectmen is that if people can protest and congregate on small common then the people of North Brookfield can have march separately. The BOH agent also stated in a previous meeting with Mr. Kiley and John Alphin that outside gatherings can have an unlimited number of people.

Mr. Kiley reiterated that the BOS are not forcing anyone to join the parade or festivities. Ethan Melad asked about the people who work with and go to school with the people who participate.

Mr. Kiley discussed the numbers of people infected, and the death rate. Most people who die from the virus have preexisting conditions. Mr. Kiley and the BOS do not think the virus is the problem that others are saying it is. More and more testing will equal more positive cases, the number of hospitalizations are going down. You can visit the dashboard of mass.gov for up to date information. Ethan Melad stated that he trusts the professionals and Mr. Kiley is not qualified.

Brandon Avery announced that the Historical Museum is open by appointment only, you can contact him on Facebook or google him for contact info. He asked that you bring a face covering when you visit. Mr. Kiley asked Brandon if he needed hand sanitizer, Brandon said no, he's got soap and water and ask everyone visiting to wash their hands thoroughly, as that is more effective than hand sanitizer. Mr. Tripp thanked Brandon for posting on the Historical Museum's Facebook page.

Mr. Tripp has been working on the Rail Trail. He stated he's got one more day of work and they should be reaching Rt. 9 in East Brookfield. He's been working with a crew of 5 or 6 guys and thanked them for all their hard work. Any volunteers are welcome to help on Saturday morning.

Jennifer Marquis applied for the Town Accountant position and was at the meeting. Mr. Kiley stated that Nancy has been helping us but it's only short term. We hope that Nancy will be able to train the new position. We only received one application and the Board was impressed with her resume. Jennifer has experience in software, municipalities, and finance. Mr. Kiley asked Jennifer to give us a summary of her experience. Jennifer said she's lived in North Brookfield for 4 years, she has worked in municipal government (Assistant Town Clerk in Bolton) and Financial Services. She provided record keeping software and services. She's part of large support network across the commonwealth. She met Nancy briefly when she was connecting with Tara on a different topic. Mr. Kiley stated we'd have to sit down and discuss salary and benefits and asked Jennifer if she could attend the BOS meeting next Tuesday evening. She said she will.

At 6:38 there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into executive session. Roll call: Kiley, yes; Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes. So voted. Mr. Kiley announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 7:22 the Board came out of executive session. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre