

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at the Town Offices at 6:05pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to approve the minutes from 1/28 and 2/4. So voted.

Appointments:

Mr. James Early and Police Chief Mark Smith were present to discuss the appointment of a new full time officer (Mr. Early). The Board reviewed Mr. Early's resume and credentials, and Chief Smith spoke about how qualified Mr. Early is. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. James Early to the position of full time police officer for North Brookfield. So voted. Mr. Early will join the Selectmen at the next meeting to be introduced on camera.

Bob Locatelli requested to join the Finance Committee as an alternate. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Robert Locatelli to the Finance Committee as alternate. So voted.

SEWER: Jim Nyberg and the Sewer Commissioners were present to discuss the future plans for the facility, which will require upgrades mandated by the State. Mr. Nyberg passed out handouts and said he wants to bring the Selectmen up to date and keep them informed from the early stages of this project. The Sewer Commissioners and Jim had met with engineers from Kleinfelder, they've worked with North Brookfield for over 30 years, to go over the ECO requirements mandated by the State. Mr. Nyberg presented information which is available in the Selectmen's office regarding the plans Kleinfelder came up with. The facilities upgrade will be discussed at a public information session on Thursday February 13th at 6:00PM in the KIVA room at the high school. Budgeting the upgrade was discussed, and Mr. Nyberg and the Commissioners believe North Brookfield will receive quite a bit of grant money for this, reducing the cost by at least 30%. Mr. Nyberg will also be pursuing smaller grant opportunities to help deflect cost. Unfortunately, since this is a mandated upgrade, we won't have much choice about it, it has to be done but Sewer is looking to keep all costs to a minimum. If the Town does not vote to approve this upgrade, North Brookfield will be charged \$10,000-\$25,000 a day while in non-compliance. Mr. Tripp asked about the plans for upgrading the administration building, could we just add on instead of building a new one. Jim indicated that many of the admin systems are old and in disrepair. The especially need a larger lab to conduct the appropriate monitoring and tests. John asked about "down time" during reconstruction, Jim indicated that whether they expand or build new, the lab would need to be removed to keep the integrity of the lab secure (dust from construction ect).

Also discussed was the potential for expansion into East Brookfield. This would add users, decreasing costs for each hookup. We would also have opportunities to pick up more North Brookfield residents. Mr. Kiley asked about getting NB residents on the Lake onto the system. The easiest way to do this would be to go up Route 9 in East Brookfield. It can be done through other means, going up Brickyard/Bullard or over Ward St. However, a more intensive study of the topography would be needed to be sure. Mr. Tripp asked about mandating hookups. Jim stated there are several options for residents, and DEP could help with residents on Lake Lashaway.

The last item to be discussed was staffing at the plant. They will need to hire a Grade IV or V operator in the next couple years. This will affect their budget, so Dale asked that they make sure any new hires are paid for out of their enterprise fund and not the general budget. Jim said he could hire a part time, non-licensed employee and they can work their way up the ladder.

Ashley had some questions for the Board:

CORE TEAM members for the MVP Planning Grant were talked about.

William Skrobul sent an email suggesting the Common be named in honor of Dick Fiske Sr., the Board like the idea and will take it into consideration.

There are several items that will need to be brought to Fin Comm.

We discussed the deadline for ATM articles.

At 8:10PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre