

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: moved to next meeting

Mr. Kiley mentioned that minutes and agendas are missing from many departments and committees. Ashley will reach out ask them to update their minutes.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 11 for \$294,527.36, #1023 School for \$117,714.56, #1024 General for \$161,960.28, #1025 Debt Service for \$6,935,336.26 and #1026 General II for \$6,250.00. So voted.

CARES Act: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the School's CARES Act request for \$624.98. So voted.

Old Business:

- a. Signed the Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for Common Ground

New Business:

- a. Mr. Kiley explained the Memo from the Board of Health regarding masks/face covering (order #55). He stated that conflicting information was provided regarding the use of masks in the Town Offices. John Alphin had stated to some employees that masks do not need to be worn when an employee is by themselves in their office. The response from the BOH stated that the Governor's order does not explicitly allow for this. A contact at the DPH agrees that when a Town Employee is alone in their office, they do not need to wear a mask, however; when a person comes in to their office, stands at the door, or the window, or if the employee leaves their office, they must don a mask. The State has alerted the BOH of complaints about the Town Offices. The BOH stated if people don't wear their masks in public, they will be fined \$300.00 by the BOH or DLS. Mr. Petraitis asked if there was a record of the complaints, Mr. Kiley stated he doesn't have the record, but that the BOH claims they are not complaining to the state, but that residents are. There was some discussion on orders vs. mandates vs. law. Mr. Petraitis said that in order to prevent grief in Town Offices they will keep the door closed to the public. The public can make appointments in advance if they need to see someone in the offices by calling or emailing.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to closed the Town Offices to the Public. So voted.

Ashley will make signage that displays the email and phone numbers to hang on the Town Office door.

- b. Mr. Kiley posted pictures of graphs showing the hospitalizations, confirmed cases, and confirmed deaths from COVID since the beginning of the pandemic. He wanted people to see the numbers since most people don't go to mass.gov. Tina Floria asked if there was a graph for the recovery numbers, Mr. Kiley said the state has stopped posting that information. According to DPH 14 days after a positive test, or symptoms you are considered recovered.

Announcements:

Sharon Donovan was hired as the new Senior Center/Council on Aging Director. She has big shoes to fill but she will do great.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said the Historical Museum is winding down but people can come in by appointment only. The building that the Museum is in has been sold. Brandon has quite a collection of historical artifacts from North Brookfield, the region, and even nationally. He's looking for ideas for a future space. Mr. Tripp thought maybe the Police Station area of the old Town House. There was a donation from Bates to fund an area in the library for the museum but the final design did not allow space for it. The question of using a portion of the school was brought up, the school (during normal operation) is only at 1/3 capacity. Mr. Kiley encouraged Brandon to reach out to the Superintendent. Brandon said he'd ideally need 1200 square feet of space; he's got 800 now.

Tina Floria stated that the lights at the Park are on and it looks good. Mr. Kiley agreed that the Park looks gorgeous.

Mr. Kiley read a letter about the Lake Lashaway draw down.

At 6:35PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre