

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM at the Senior Center on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis and John Tripp were present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 2/11/20. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: School warrant # 1040 for \$89,345.41, General Warrant # 1041 for \$144,235.79 and Payroll warrant # 17 for \$343,251.41. So voted.

Mr. Kiley introduced the new North Brookfield full time officer, Mr. James Early, and asked Police Chief Mark Smith to say a few words. Chief Smith spoke about Mr. Early's outstanding qualifications and said the Town is very lucky to have him. Mr. Early is trained in multiple areas: SWAT, Active Shooter, Alice, Stop Stick, six plus years on the force, ect ect. Mr. Early comes with a wealth of training and a ton of experience. He had all positive reviews in his references. Mr. Early the spoke and said he was happy to be here and asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Kiley said the selectmen were impressed with Mr. Early's resume and that they have confidence and Chief Smith's hiring decisions. We have stellar Police Officer's and expect you to be the same. Thank you. Mr. Tripp also welcomed Mr. Early aboard.

Appointments: Matt Sedlier, Dawn Sedlier, and Sharon Donovan all requested to join the Downtown Development Committee. Sharon was present and said how much she loves North Brookfield. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Matt, Dawn, and Sharon to the Downtown Development Committee. So voted.

Sharon Donovan and Marilyn Borst requested to join the Historical Commission. Sharon stated she was trying to save the old cemetery at the corner on North Main and Maple streets to get listed as a historical sight. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Sharon and Marilyn to the Historical Commission. So voted.

(Ian and Kelly gave a detailed presentation on the Green Communities program. For more information you can visit www.northbrookfield.net and view a video of the meeting)

Green Communities: Ian McElwee and Kelly Brown were present to discuss the Green Communities program; Director Brian Sullivan was also present. Ian works for CMRPC and Kelly and Brian work for the Department of Energy Resources.

Green Communities-Programs and Resources: Designation and Grant Program, MassEnergyInsight energy tracking and analysis tool, Municipal Energy Technical Assistance, Regional Energy Planning Assistance, HeatSmart and Solarize Mass Plus, website: www.mass.gov/org/green-communities-division, sign up for email notifications at www.mass.gov/forms/green-communities-updates

The Green Communities Division works for all Massachusetts Cities and Towns. Regional Energy Planning Assistance helps with criteria to become designated as a Green Community. There is twenty million dollars available annually in grant funding that comes from RGGI & ACP (Regional Energy Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Alternative Compliance Payments) to cover a wide range of costs of becoming more efficient including (but not limited to): boilers, lights, and controls in buildings, and solar planning. There are 271 Green Communities in Mass, including surrounding Towns such as Spencer,

West Brookfield, Barre, Hardwick, Ware, Warren and New Braintree. Once a community is designated, they receive a designation grant, North Brookfield could qualify for up to \$135,000.00. After the initial designation they would be entered into a competitive grant pool for additional funds per year, up to \$200,000 annually.

There is a five-step process to becoming designated: 1-Adopt as-of-right sighting for RE/AE generation, R&D, or manufacturing. 2. Adopt expedited permitting process 3. Create an Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years 4. Purchase only Fuel-Efficient Vehicles 5. Minimize life cycle cost in new construction-> adopt the Stretch Code

Mr. Tripp spoke about Step 1 and the Solar Zoning by law: we plan on having a solar canopy at the school, and a solar project on the landfill. Mr. Kiley said the landfill needs to be certified by the DEP. Kelly said they can help make sure by-laws are in compliance with the Green Comm regulations. Mr. Tripp also indicated that North Brookfield wants to protect the Forest and Farm lands.

The fuel-efficient vehicles would be based on MPG ratings. Emergency vehicles and heavy duty DPW equipment would not need to meet this requirement. The Town could adopt a new vehicle purchase policy that falls in line with this requirement. (The vehicles DO NOT need to be Electric Vehicles)

The Stretch Code policy (as well as others) would need to go to a Town Vote.

Ian spoke about how CMRPC helps the Towns they work with: looking at solar projects, energy reduction plan, vehicle inventory list, and stretch code. They also help with the required annual reporting to stay compliant, and submit the grant applications. Funds have been set aside to help North Brookfield, and there are additional funds available through Green Communities.

The Board will need to vote to see if the Town wants to commit to being designated. Mr. Petraitis asked when they would need to know. Ian said the sooner the better but anytime is fine. "Commitment" would be defined as "committed to looking at the process." Doesn't mean we are committing to the requirements at this time.

Mr. Petraitis asked about RGGI and Kelly explained that 9 states are a part of this, it's a cap & trade, companies that pollute give money (pay a penalty) back to the communities.

Ian said there is no match required, but in order to spend all the money he has seen times when Town's have had to contribute \$100 or so. The Town would decide what does on the grant application. A town MAY be required to match funds if the project is considered an end of life project or if they payback exceeds the life expectancy of the building/project.

Mr. Petraitis asked about the cons of this program, Kelly said more education is needed and it was much harder 4 or 5 years ago to get all the work done. Now there is assistance available for Towns.

Mr. Kiley asked anyone who has questions about the Green Communities program to email the selectmen.

Public Comment: none

Mr. Kiley read a letter about the MVP Grant, the Town of North Brookfield was awarded \$25,000.00 for the planning portion.

Mr. Petraitis was approached about flags missing from the Library. Some time over the Winter the ropes broke and the flags were never found. The American Legion will replace the American Flag, but they need to find the POW/MIA Flag or have it replaced. Mr. Tripp indicated there is a POW Flag in the basement of the Town House that we could use.

Mr. Kiley read an announcement from the Town Clerk regarding upcoming elections and positions that still need candidates.

Mr. Petraitis thanked everyone who came to the information meeting regarding the Sewer upgrade and potential expansion. He also encouraged people to attend a similar meeting in East Brookfield, at the Town Hall, on Wednesday February 26 at 7:30PM, to discuss potential expansion into East Brookfield.

Mr. Kiley also thanked John Tripp for repairing 3 broken benches on North Main St. Mr. Tripp and his wife, Mindy, were able to repair and replace the benches.

At 7:00PM there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre