

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 19, 2019

Chairman Kiley called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:05 PM with Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Tripp also present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **March 5, 2019**

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted

- **March 12, 2019**

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted, with Mr. Kiley abstaining because he was not present for most of that meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **Debt Warrant #1044 for \$1,802,566.15**
- **School Warrant #1045 for \$60,521.97**
- **General Warrant #1046 for \$128,103.47**
- **Payroll Warrant #19 for \$328,924.39**

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve these warrants. So voted

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Mass DOT Chapter 90 funds

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Mass DOT announcing that North Brookfield's FY20 apportionment will be \$309,884.00. (Attachment #1)

B. School Committee re: letter of support

Kristen DePasse of the School Committee was present to ask the Selectmen and any interested residents to sign a letter of support in favor of changing the state formula for local school aid. She noted that the school recently held a forum on the state funding process. North Brookfield receives much less per student than big cities. The letter will be sent to the state's joint committee on education, and it explains the hardships the formula creates. Mr. Kiley urged residents to support this effort to change the state funding formula, and to contact their senator or representative.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. CMRPC Traffic Count

Mr. Kiley reviewed a memo from Central Mass Regional Planning Commission noting that they will be doing their annual traffic count in Town. (Attachment #2) We are still waiting for feedback from the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief.

B. Landfill solar lease option

Mr. Kiley reviewed a proposal from Symbiont Energy for a lease option to study the feasibility of a solar project on the landfill. (Attachment #3) Mr. Kiley said that the

agreement can be terminated at any time at no cost. He would like to add language regarding the DEP contamination issues as well. Mr. Tripp said that he would prefer that the representatives of Symbiont come to North Brookfield and walk the site before the Selectmen sign anything. Mr. Kiley said that he would contact Chris Olson and try to discuss the issues.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to purchase Buxton Hill Road

Mr. Kiley reviewed an e-mail from Jenifer Boucher asking if the Town would consider selling property near the Cooley Dam on Brookfield Road. (Attachment #4) The assessors are researching the deeds for this property, as it is not clear if the Town or Mass Audubon own the property.

B. February police report

Mr. Tripp reviewed the police report for the month of February. (Attachment #5) The Chief reported 37 incidents for the month, including 12 arrest and summons. Chief Smith also noted that the department was awarded a \$7,642.00 grant to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

C. Water Department weed control contract

Mr. Kiley reviewed a letter from the Water Commissioners asking that the Selectmen sign the annual contract for weed control at Horse Pond. (Attachment #6) Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

D. Friends of Town House request to use Town House

Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from Trish Miller of the Friends of the Town House asking for permission to give small group tours of the Great Hall on May 4th during the annual May Fest. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the use of the Town House on May 4th.

E. Lake Lashaway Association re: lake management

Rick Manser of the Lake Lashaway Association was present to introduce himself to the Board in an effort to improve communication. Mr. Manser presented information about the Lake Association, its members, and what it does. (Attachment #7) The Selectmen thanked Mr. Manser for the information.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Kiley announced that the public has the opportunity to briefly comment through the chairman.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Election update

Mr. Tripp reviewed the final list of offices and candidates for the May 6th Annual Town Election.

B. Dog licenses are now available

Mr. Kiley announced that dog licenses are now available from the Town Clerk. There will be a \$5 late fee after June 1st, and \$25 after September 1st.

C. Planning Board hearing notice

Mr. Tripp read a notice from the Planning Board that there will be a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20th on the application of Jordan Energy and Food Enterprises to construct a solar facility at 55 West Brookfield Road.

D. Rail Trail announcement

Mr. Tripp noted that clearing of the rail trail we begin again o April 7th.

E. Tax title auction to be held April 16th

Mr. Petraitis noted that the Town will be holding a tax-title auction on April 16th at noon at the Police Station. There are three properties on the auction list.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

See attached list

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, at 7:15 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PROJECT STATUS AND PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S AGENDA ITEMS

PROJECT

Aztec/Mass Dev grant
Solar contracts on Municipal Property
Personnel policies
Electric aggregation
Town House restoration project
Bates Observatory
Cable license renewal
Disabilities Commission

STATUS

Pending
Pending
In progress
Pending
FOTH Capital Campaign
Pending
Pending
Pending

