

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, and John Tripp present.

Holden Funds: Police Chief Mark Smith submitted a request to the Board to get money from the Holden Funds to purchase some equipment that is out of date. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted. Ashley will inform Chief Joe Holway of the balance of the funds and get a request from him.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kiley moved and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to approve the minutes from 11/12/19. Mr. Petraitis abstained as he was not present for that meeting. So voted.

Conference Call with Symbiont Energy: Ashley could not get a hold of Chris Olson or Peter Defazio from Symbiont to confirm details about the call. Will try again at a later date. Mr. Tripp and Mr. Kiley stated they have some concerns and would like to go over the details with Chris or Peter. Mr. Tripp wants to make sure it will comply with the North Brookfield Zoning By-Laws: 100 feet from road with screens. Mr. Kiley would really like to do a video call if possible.

MassDot Contract: Mr. Kiley and Mr. Petraitis signed the MassDot contract from the Highway Department to amend the original contract.

Sped Stabilization: The school submitted a request for money to be paid out of SPED stabilization account. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

6:15 Classification Hearing: At 6:15 the Classification hearing was reopened. Sheila Buzzell from the Board of Assessors was present to finish the hearing that was adjourned from the last meeting (11/12/19). Sheila explained that the Board of Selectmen had to vote to approve a single tax rate for the Town, they aren't voting on the tax rate itself, just that there would be one rate. Mr. Tripp asked about the rate and she explained that they don't have the actual rate yet, they have to wait for information from Tom, Town accountant, but that it looks like the rate would be going down. We should know what the rate is by next week. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the single tax rate for North Brookfield. So voted. The Board signed Sheila's form. The hearing was dissolved at 6:22PM.

There was a brief discussion about combining the Treasure and Collector position when Anne retires. Mr. Tripp asked if it was feasible and legal and wondered if it would interfere with the checks and balances. Mr. Kiley said it is legal to combine these two positions, and it would be feasible if the person had a full time, well qualified assistant. Mr. Kiley did state that it is illegal to combine the Accountant position with the Treasurer or Collector.

Also a brief discussion about the shared Highway/Police Admin Assistant about how many hours and what pay rate, final numbers TBD. The job description should be updated to include education and computer skills.

Ashley gave the Board the resumes she's received for the Plumbing and Gas Inspector position. The Board asked her to forward the resumes to John Couture and see if he had any concerns or recommendations. Per Mr. Couture's advice the Board will vote on the new P&G Inspector next week.

Discussion about promoting Chris Donais to Sergeant and when we can have the ceremony. Ashley will check with Chief Mark Smith on the time frame.

There being no further business, at 7:10PM Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Barre