

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 29, 2014

Vice Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Hevy present. Mr. Smith was absent.

Also present were Charles and Claudette Marshall. Jim Wilson of Two-Way Radio Service arrived at 6:45 PM.

Mrs. Walter reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• October 21, 2014

It was agreed to postpone approval of these minutes until the next meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

There were no warrants to be approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Walter announced that the public has the opportunity to briefly comment on agenda items through the Chairman.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Budget/Town Meeting update

Mrs. Walter thanked all of the 70 plus residents who came to last Friday night's Special Town Meeting. The FY15 budget was balanced at that meeting. She noted that the determination of what happens in Town is in the hands of the voters.

B. Reminder there will be a question on the November 4th State Election ballot for a Capital Expenditure Exclusion for 2 police cruisers

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that there will be a Capital Exclusion question on next Tuesday's state election ballot. It will be question #5. The first part of this process that will allow the Town to spend over the levy limit for only one year was approved at Friday night's Special Town Meeting by an overwhelming majority; approval at the election is the second part of the process. The Selectmen and Finance Committee are trying this process for the first time. If approved, the Town will spend \$80,000.00 to purchase two police cruisers. This will increase the tax rate by .21 for one year. For an average home valued at \$203,000.00, this one-time increase comes to \$44.00. Mrs. Walter noted that these vehicles will help the Police Department respond in certain weather conditions.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Appointment of part-time officers

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. asking the Selectmen to appoint three part-time officers. (Attachment #1) Officer Chris Donais

presented three men to be appointed; Richard Caron, Jeff Martin, and Greg Pianka. Mr. Hevy asked the men to explain a little of their backgrounds, and all of the men stated that they were looking forward to beginning a long career in law enforcement. Officer Donais noted that the appointment of these three young men will bring the number of part-time officers on the force to six. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint the men. So voted.

B. Letter from James Caldwell re: Town House Advisory Committee

Mrs. Walter noted that last week the Board appointed seven members to the new Town House Advisory Committee. Mr. Hevy stated that he has contacted those seven people, and two of them have declined the appointment: Jim Caldwell and Rich Dwelley. Mr. Hevy read an e-mail from Mr. Caldwell stating that he did not want to participate.

(Attachment #2) Mr. Caldwell is concerned that the committee is too large. In addition, Mr. Hevy noted, Mr. Dwelley has recently purchased a multi-family home and he is not able to make the time commitment.

Mrs. Walter said that last week when this committee was appointed we voted that any new members would be submitted by the committee. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to rescind the appointments of Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Dwelley. So voted.

Mr. Hevy and Mrs. Walter reviewed some proposed guidelines for the committee drawn up by Mr. Hevy, along with guidelines from two previous Town committees. (Attachment #3) Mrs. Walter suggested that the person responsible for taking minutes be rotated among the members, so that one person does not always have to be the clerk. Mrs. Walter also stated that perhaps the committee should investigate some sort of temporary heating system for the Town House that might help mitigate damage to the building.

Mr. Hevy noted that he hopes to schedule the first meeting of the committee for Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 at the Police Station.

C. NBEMA grant

It was agreed to postpone action on this item since Doug Blood was not able to attend this meeting.

D. Two Way Radio Service proposal

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Attorney Brian Riley regarding a proposed agreement from AA Transportation and Two-Way Radio Service to install an antenna at the North Brookfield Water Department. (Attachment #4) Attorney Riley stated that in his opinion the agreement adequately protects the interests of the Town. Jim Wilson of Two-Way Radio Service was present to reiterate his request that the Selectmen allow the installation of this antenna for safety reasons. Mr. Wilson stated that he will send a certificate of insurance as soon as possible. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign the agreement. So voted.

E. PDA study update

Mrs. Walter explained that last week on October 24th she and Mr. Smith accompanied Trish Settles of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) around an area in the center of town considered a Priority Development Area (PDA). The Town has been approved for grant funds to be used by CMRPC to study this PDA; roughly the area from Maple Street to Spring Street to perhaps include Central Street, and Grove Street to Union Street to include the large building on the corner of Summer Street and Union Street. This study will examine any zoning or planning issues that might need to be considered in order to ensure continuity around the downtown business area. CMRPC will conduct their research between now and December, then use the funds to further the study and make their recommendations.

F. Murphy Road update

Mrs. Walter noted that last night the Conservation Commission reviewed the Notice of Intent from Fuss and O'Neill for the Murphy Road Bridge project. There will be another public hearing on November 21st, and the ConCom members will inspect the site individually before that hearing. The next step for this project will be to wait for the Army Corps of Engineers to come through with their permit. Bidding should begin in mid-January, with work expected to begin in May.

G. Town House project update

- **Guidelines for committee**

This item was already covered under agenda item B.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Sunday 10 AM opening for Bob's Deli

Mrs. Walter noted that last week the Selectmen acknowledged the Sunday 10 AM opening of St. Jean's Country Package Store, and now they are being asked to acknowledge the same thing for Bob's Deli. (Attachment #5) The Selectmen do not have to approve this, but the license holder must notify the Board before beginning the early opening.

B. Sign contract for Cultural Council funds

Mrs. Walter reviewed a contract from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for \$4,300.00 for funds for the North Brookfield Cultural Council. (Attachment #6) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted and signed.

C. Rescheduling of November 4th and November 11th meetings

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen's meetings for November 4th and November 11th must be rescheduled because of Election Day and the Veterans' Day holiday. It was agreed that it would be best to remain consistent and keep the meetings on Wednesdays. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to change the November 4th meeting to November 5th, and to change the November 11th meeting to November 12th. So voted.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. VFW Poppy Drive

Mr. Hevy announced that the VFW will be selling poppies on November 6th and 7th in front of the Cumberland Farms store.

B. North Brookfield has received a Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant from DEP

Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (Attachment #7) that the North Brookfield Board of Health has been awarded up to \$500.00 for a Targeted Small Scale Initiative through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. Mrs. Walter offered the Board's congratulations to the Board of Health.

C. Trick or Treat hours

Mr. Hevy announced that Trick or Treat will be held on October 31st from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

D. Tax classification hearing on November 3rd

Mrs. Walter reviewed a notice of the annual Tax Classification hearing to be held on Monday, November 3rd at 9 AM in the Selectmen's office. (Attachment #8)

E. Bay Path Santa Claus Breakfast

Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the Bay Path Educational Foundation that they will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast with Santa Claus on December 13th from 7:30 AM to 10:30 PM. (Attachment #9)

F. Wendemuth Meadow update

Mrs. Walter read an update from the Conservation Commission announcing that the Town of North Brookfield has been awarded a grant of \$192,500.00 to purchase a Conservation Restriction for the Wendemuth Meadow property. (Attachment #10) This is 70% of the cost of the restriction, and the Friends of and the East Quabbin Land Trust have committed to raising the additional \$50,000.00. There will be no cost to the Town for this.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- See attached listing

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was postponed because Police Chief Thomasian was unable to attend.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant