

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Chabot also present. Mr. Petraitis reminded those in attendance that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2012 APPROVAL OF AUGUST 28, 2012 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES APPROVAL OF AUGUST 29, 2012 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes. So voted.

IA. APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1013 FOR \$1,546,138.77 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1014 FOR \$32,508.02 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1015 FOR \$156,290.53 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #6 FOR \$281,431.72

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned warrants. So voted.

IB. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present for the public comment period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. APPOINT CDAC COMMITTEE

The Selectmen need to appoint a Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) to make recommendations on potential projects for a CDBG application. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to appoint Highway Superintendent Gary Jean, Sewer Superintendent Rodney Jenkins, and Water Superintendent Steve Jones. So voted. It was agreed to approach the Planning Board about a member of their group serving on the committee, and also perhaps Troy Brown as a community representative.

B. APPOINT AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Walter noted that this committee cannot be appointed until the recently adopted "Right to Farm" bylaw has been approved by the Attorney General's office. This will go under Future Agenda Items.

C. ACCEPT HOME CORPS GRANT

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept and sign for the \$20,000.00 Home Corps grant that was recently received from the Attorney General's office to fund a revolving account to clean up vacant properties. So voted.

D. OCTOBER 4TH SPECIAL ELECTION

Mr. Petraitis reviewed the warrant for the October 4th Special Election to approve funding for the Bay Path Vocational School renovation project. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter noted that the \$1,016,947.00 that is listed as North Brookfield's share does not include interest to be paid. Mr. Chabot noted that the election is taking place on a Thursday, and the polls will not open until noon. Mrs. Walter said that absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PETER BARSTOW RE: RIVER ROAD

Peter Barstow of 8 River Road was present to lead a discussion on the history of River Road, and his contention that it is a public road. He presented an 1830 map showing that the road used to continue across the northern part of what is now Lake Lashaway. According to Mr. Barstow, this road was used as an alternative to the Boston Post Road. He says that when North Brookfield became a town in 1812 this was a public road. Mr. Barstow stated that a 2002 satellite photo shows that remnants of the road still remain.

Mr. Barstow stated that a few years ago the neighbors asked for advice from Highway Superintendent Richard Barnes on a flooding problem. The neighbors pooled their money and paid Ray Barnes to install a large drainage pit. This worked to alleviate the flooding for several years, but the pit is now filled with silt and other material and a large area of the road floods during heavy rains.

Mr. Barstow noted that every deed in the area says that the owners have use of a right-of way to access their property.

Richard Baranowski of 18 River Road stated that he needs to be able to access his driveway for safety reasons. He and his family must park out on Shore Road and walk to the house when the area is flooded. Linda Langella agreed that it is a dangerous situation.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Highway Department was there last year, but because there are no drainage pipes bringing water away from the pit it will continue to back up. She

noted that the Town's bylaws do allow the Town to do some maintenance on private roads.

Mr. Chabot suggested that if the pit were cleaned out it would probably help the situation. He gave Mr. Baranowski a letter from Kopelman and Paige that states that the property is not a town road, but a right of way on private property. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Petraitis stated that the Board understands the problem and will look into it. He would like to review the information and discuss it again in two weeks.

B. CHIEF THOMASIAN RE: PART-TIME RATE AND PROMOTIONS

Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. was present to ask the Selectmen to allow him to increase the rate of pay for part-time officers from \$12.86 per hour to \$13.86. The Chief reported that West Brookfield pays their part-time officers between \$16.07 and \$21.47 per hour, East Brookfield pays \$14.90 plus a shift differential, and Brookfield pays \$13.26/hr. The Chief said that he has had some part-time officers resign because they are working in the other towns. He estimated that he would need \$2,140.00 added to this year's budget in order to accommodate the \$1 per hour increase.

C. VOTE TO SET NOVEMBER 2ND FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ARTICLES IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 23RD FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to set November 2, 2012 at 7 PM as the time and date for a Special Town Meeting. So voted.

D. MEMO FROM BOB LOCATELLI AND CHET LUBELCZYK

Mrs. Walter reviewed a memo from Robert Locatelli and Chet Lubelczyk of the Finance Committee. (Attachment #3) In it the two men suggest ways to generate income from various parcels of town-owned land. The Selectmen agreed that some of the parcels could probably be sold. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to take the memo under advisement for future discussion. So voted.

E. ACCEPT CHECK FROM GRATEFUL RESIDENT

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept a check for \$365.00 for the General Fund from "a grateful resident." This same person sent a check last year as well.

F. AUGUST POLICE REPORT

Chief Thomasian reviewed his report for the month of August. (Attachment #4) The Chief reported 20 incidents and 19 arrest/summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

G. REQUEST FOR THREE YEAR APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from Constable Arthur Tatro asking to be appointed for three years instead of annually. (Attachment #5) After some discussion, the Selectmen agreed that they see no reason to make the change.

H. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF FOREST LEGACY AREA

Mr. Chabot read a letter from Cynthia Henshaw of the East Quabbin Land Trust asking for a letter of support to create a Heritage Corridor Forest Legacy Area. (Attachment #6) Ms. Henshaw states that this would expand eligibility for land protection funds. Mr. Petraitis said that he would like to know what would be required of private land owners within this area. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to refer the letter to the Forestry Committee, and to take it under advisement.

I. THANK YOU LETTER FROM BROOKFIELD SELECTMEN

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the Brookfield Board of Selectmen thanking North Brookfield for their assistance during a recent fatal fire. (Attachment #7) The Selectmen noted that we are lucky to have such a dedicated group of men, and asked that the letter be forwarded to Fire Chief Brad Gannon.

J. LETTER FROM DUDLEY SELECTMEN

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the Dudley Board of Selectmen that they had written to their state senator and representative regarding unfunded mandates, specifically in regards to vocational school tuition. (Attachment #8) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to send a letter to State Senator Brewer and Representative Gobi stating the Selectmen's concerns about the unfunded mandates. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. PLANNING BOARD HEARING NOTICES

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a hearing notice from the Planning Board regarding five hearing that they are holding on September 19th. (Attachment #9)

B. LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT OCTOBER 4TH SPECIAL ELECTION IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Mr. Petraitis announced the above information.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Walter noted that the Police Chief's contract still has not been finalized.

Mrs. Walter suggested a monthly update on ongoing projects.

Mrs. Walter noted that at the September 20th meeting of the Regional Selectmen's group Attorney Jack Dolan will be presenting additional job descriptions and personnel policies, Janet Pierce of CMRPC will discuss the possibility of regionalizing ALS services, a regional purchasing collaborative, and DTLA grants.

Mr. Petraitis noted that he has been approached by Conservation Commission Chairman Dane Falardeau about gravel by-laws. Mr. Chabot noted that a previously proposed by-law did not pass at town meeting. Mr. Petraitis stated that he told Mr. Falardeau to put his concerns and questions in writing.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant