

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 8, 2012

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

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to reorganize the Board, making Mr. Petraitis chairman, Mrs. Walter vice-chairman, and Mr. Chabot clerk. So voted.

I. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 2012 as written. So voted. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the May 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the Horse Pond Dam Warrant #1056 for \$995,949.92, School Warrant #1057 for \$76,944.37, Refund Warrant #1058 for \$4,294.18, General Warrant #1059 for \$309,805.58, General Warrant #1060 for \$2,441.99, and Payroll Warrant #23 for \$255,309.09. So voted.

IB. Mr. Chabot thanked everyone who voted in yesterday's annual town election, and those who voted him into office. He also lamented the low voter turnout, and wondered if there should be more signs in the center of town reminding residents about the election.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter noted that USDA has offered the Town a loan/grant to finish the elementary school window project. (Attachment #1) She asked that the Selectmen vote tonight to tentatively accept the \$424,230.00 loan, with a \$22,000.00 grant. This will lock in the grant funds, but still leave the Town's options open in regards to the financing of the project in case the MSBA does not agree to extend their financing to cover the remainder of the windows. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adopt a loan resolution accepting the funds. So voted.

B. Mr. Petraitis reported that he has not heard back from Kevin Donahue and Eric Rosen of the Quabaug Corporation to set up a meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Quabaug Building Study Committee. He will attempt to contact them this week.

C. Mr. Chabot reviewed an e-mail from Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. asking for permission to begin the hiring process for a new full-time officer for

FY2013. (Attachment #2) The Selectmen all agreed that the new officer is a necessity for the department. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to grant permission for Chief Thomasian to start the hiring process for FY2013. So voted.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed two requests for internal transfers; one from the Cemetery Department for \$875.00 for tree removal, and one from the Conservation Commission for \$10.50 to purchase a handbook. (Attachment #3) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve both transfers. So voted.

C. Joe Holway was present to talk to the Selectmen about a town park near Route 148 and West Brookfield Road. The park was renovated in the 1970s when the Town had CETA personnel, but has significantly overgrown over the years. Mr. Holway would like to clean up the park and open up the pond for fishing derbies. A young man looking for his Eagle Scout project, Andrew Paquette, would like to work on this project. Mr. Holway has already obtained liability insurance from the boy scouts for Mr. Paquette. Mr. Holway also said that the scouts will not be cutting any large trees, Mr. Holway and his brother Tony, who is the Tree Warden, will do that.

On some town-owned land across the street Dave and Jeff Martin would like to build a Frisbee golf park and some hiking trails. Mr. Holway stated that the Quabaug Corporation makes components for Frisbee golf, and perhaps they would be willing to sponsor a course. There will have to be crosswalks and signs for both of these parks.

Mr. Holway asked if a committee could be appointed to work on these projects, and also asked for the "blessing" of the Selectmen to proceed.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the formation of the committee, with the appointments to be made next week. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Bob Locatelli regarding two landlocked parcels of Town land. (Attachment #4) Mr. Locatelli questioned whether the two parcels could be logged or sold in order to provide some revenue to the Town. Mrs. Walter suggested logging the land and then selling it. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to ask Mr. Chet Lubelczyk to evaluate the timber value of the land. So voted.

D. This item, a letter to the towns involved in the regional selectmen's group, will be deferred until next week. Mrs. Walter will contact the Town of

Brookfield and inform them that North Brookfield will not be participating in the highway equipment sharing agreement.

E. The Selectmen reviewed two letters to be sent to Kevin Sullivan at MSBA, one declining the invitation to participate in the Accelerated Repair Program for the Elementary School roof, and the other asking the MSBA to consider extending their financial assistance to cover the funding shortage to complete the Elementary School window project. (Attachment #5) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve both letters. So voted.

F. Mrs. Walter reviewed the April Police Department report, as submitted by Chief Thomasian. (Attachment #6) The Chief reported 20 incidents, and 7 arrest/summons for the month. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

G. Mr. Petraitis read a thank you note from John and Theresa Ingemi thanking the Selectmen for dedicating the 2011 Annual Report to John. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The Selectmen said that it was their great pleasure to honor Mr. and Mrs. Ingemi.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be a Special Town Meeting this Friday night at 7 PM in the Elementary School.

B. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Annual Town Meeting follow the Special at 7:30 on Friday night. Mrs. Walter asked that residents review the town meeting warrants in advance, particularly the one for the Annual Town Meeting, as it is quite lengthy and contains four proposed by-law amendments.

C. The Selectmen announced that they will be doing the annual appointments on June 19<sup>th</sup>. There are vacancies on several town boards, including the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, the Master Plan Implementation Committee, and the Town Beach Committee. Interested residents should contact the Selectmen's office.

D. The Senior Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 per person.

E. Mrs. Walter read a memo from the Water Department that they will be flushing hydrants until May 25<sup>th</sup>. There may be temporary discoloration of the water, and residents should refrain from doing laundry if these conditions exist.

F. Mr. Petraitis reviewed the events scheduled to celebrate the Town's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Attachment #7) Mrs. Walter noted that there will be a special event at the Memorial Day celebration on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Selectmen will be doing the annual appointments on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, at 7:45 PM Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant