

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2017

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **February 7, 2017**
- **February 7, 2017 Executive Session**
- **February 13, 2017**

Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1038 for \$84,005.54**
- **General Warrant #1039 for \$110,822.09**
- **Payroll Warrant #18 for \$309,623.10**

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

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Review of FY18 Budgets

The Selectmen reviewed the latest balance sheet from Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel based on the governor's FY18 budget and departmental budget requests as submitted. (Attachment #1) The balance sheet shows a deficit of \$310,000 right now. It also shows a \$198,000 Cherry Sheet deduction for charter schools. Senator Gobi's office is working on an answer regarding the charter schools and whether or not North Brookfield will actually have to pay that amount. It was agreed to hold a workshop budget meeting next Tuesday at 4 PM at the Town Offices in lieu of a regular meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tucker Road

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from the Buzzell family regarding the poor condition of Tucker Road. (Attachment #2) Police Chief Smith said that he and Lieutenant Daley went there and recommend that signs be posted and the road be closed. New Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit was present, and the Selectmen directed him to close the road for now and post both ends.

B. Employee Evaluation policy

This item was deferred because Mr. Kiley was supposed to speak with the police department about their policy that could possibly be adopted for the town.

C. Electric proposal from Power Management

The Selectmen reviewed information presented by Michael Hedges of Power Management regarding future electric rates for the town. It was agreed to send the proposals to the school, water, and sewer departments for their feedback and discuss this again in two weeks.

D. Meeting with Highway Superintendent re: sweeper options

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit was present to discuss options for a street sweeper with the Board. Mr. Hevy explained that former superintendent Gary Jean had proposed purchasing a new sweeper using \$216,000.00 in Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Kiley was against using the Chapter 90 funds, and suggested that the new superintendent explore other options.

Mr. Benoit said that in his opinion the old sweeper is in disrepair and should not be refurbished. He noted that he is usually not an advocate of using Chapter 90 funds for equipment. He has located two used sweepers for \$100,000.00 less than a new one. Both are refurbished and come with a warranty. Mr. Benoit will research further and come to the Selectmen next week with a recommendation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Planning Board clerk

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from Planning Board chairman Bill King asking that Kim Kort be appointed as their new clerk. (Attachment #3) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint Ms. Kort. So voted.

B. Sign Lycott contract

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from the Board of Water Commissioners asking for the Selectmen to sign a contract with Lycott Environmental for the treatment of algae at the Horse Pond Reservoir. (Attachment #4) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

C. Police Chief monthly report

Police Chief Mark Smith reviewed his departmental report for the month of January. (Attachment #5) The chief reported 32 incidents for the month, 50 civil citations, and 8 arrests/summons/custody incidents. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

D. Fire Chief monthly report

Fire Chief Brad Gannon reviewed his monthly report for January. (Attachment #6) He reported 20 calls for the month and four permits. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

E. Donovan Road pole hearing @ 6:15

At 6:15 PM Mrs. Walter opened the public hearing on the application of National Grid to install one new pole on Donovan Road for a new home being built at #31. Mr. Torres, homeowner at #31, was the only person present for the hearing. There being no objections, Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the petition. So voted.

F. Ryan Road pole hearing @ 6:30

At 6:30 PM Mrs. Walter opened a hearing on the petition of National Grid to install two new poles on Ryan Road for a new home being built at #10. Ken Shays, resident of #14 Ryan Road, asked if pole #22 could be moved back, since the stake has been placed at the very edge of the pavement and could pose a hazard being so close to the edge of the road.

James Verney of National Grid noted that the Town's land taking for that area is not very wide. National Grid could try to get an easement from the owner of #19, but that may be difficult because an anchor line is needed.

Mr. Lee, owner of #10 said that he is paying for these poles, they are not on private property. He said that he has been trying to get these poles installed since July.

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit was present, and said that the further off the road the better, especially for snow removal and safety.

Mr. Verney said that there is approximately 3' of play, the crew won't set the pole right next to the asphalt. He said it will be difficult because of the anchors needed.

Doug Powers, owner of lot #10R said that he was told by National Grid that pole #23 would be installed on the lot line between his and Mr. Lee's land. In the diagram presented by National Grid it looks like the pole has been moved.

Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion that pole #23 be set at the property line of lot #10 and #10R, and that pole 22 be moved as much off the road as possible. So voted.

G. Open warrant for ATM last day for articles will be 04/03

Mrs. Walter noted that the last day to submit articles for the May 5th Annual Town Meeting will be Monday, April 3rd.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Election update

Mr. Hevy read a memo from the Town Clerk listing all of the offices and incumbents up for election at the May 1st Annual Town Election. (Attachment #7)

B. Tyler Wolanin office hours

Mr. Hevy announced that Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Senator Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on Tuesday, February 28th from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

C. Vacancies on Town Boards

Mrs. Walter reviewed the list of vacancies on Town Boards. (Attachment #8) It was agreed that there is no longer a need to list the Finance Committee vacancies in light of Friday's town meeting, and the Master Plan Committee and Capital Improvement Planning were added.

D. Dog licenses are now due

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that dog licenses are now due and available from the Town Clerk.

E. Your Land, Your Legacy event

Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the East Quabbin Land Trust regarding a free workshop about estate planning and land protection. (Attachment #9)

VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- See attached list

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Walter announced that the public has the opportunity to briefly comment through the Chairman, with a two-minute limit.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 PM Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate. Roll call: Walter, yes; Hevy, yes; Kiley, absent. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:00 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PROJECT STATUS AND PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S AGENDA ITEMS

PROJECT

NBDDP/Aztec
Solar contracts on Municipal Property
Purchase Orders
Creation of Financial Advisory Committee
Personnel policies
98 Shore Road
Electric aggregation
Community Compact projects
 Financial Forecasting
 Capital Planning
 CMRPC/Regional Shared Services
IT Grant
Town House restoration project

Bates Observatory

STATUS

Planning Final Remediation
 Negotiating leases
pending
pending
 in progress
pending
pending

Final report delivered
Final report due June 30
in progress
in progress
 FOTH Capital Campaign
 launched 050916
pending