

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JUNE 27, 2017**

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Kiley and Mr. Petraitis also present.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **June 13, 2017**
- **June 20, 2017**

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted, with Mr. Kiley abstaining from voting on the June 13<sup>th</sup> minutes.

### **II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

- **School Warrant #1062 for \$48,849.66**
- **General Warrant #1063 for \$117,691.97**
- **Payroll Warrant #27 for \$275,711.30**

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve these warrants. So voted.

### **III. FINANCIAL ITEMS**

#### **A. Transfer requests**

There were no transfers.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Town Offices lease**

The Selectmen reviewed a new three-year lease for the Town Offices at 215 North Main Street. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The rent is \$2,532.40 per month for the entire term of the lease. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the lease. So voted.

#### **B. NBEMS contract**

The Board reviewed a new one-year contract with the North Brookfield Emergency Squad, and also an amendment that provides for ALS services. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract and the amendment. So voted.

#### **C. New fees for town departments**

The Selectmen reviewed new fee schedules for the Town Clerk, Selectmen, Building Inspector and Fire Department. (Attachment #1) Mr. Kiley asked about the Wiring and Plumbing Inspectors, and was told that they had just raised their fees in the past year or so and did not feel that they could do it again. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the new fees and to see that they are listed on the Town website. So voted.

#### **D. Annual Appointments**

The Selectmen reviewed the listing of Town Officials to be appointed for the new fiscal year. (Attachment #2) Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint as read. So voted.

#### **E. Award annual road materials bids**

This item will be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **F. Bills in state legislature**

Mr. Petraitis presented two bills that have been filed in the State Senate. (Attachment #3) The first bill "prohibits the use of Native American mascots by public schools in Massachusetts", and the other is a bill to "protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents." In Mr. Petraitis' opinion this second bill would make Massachusetts a "sanctuary state." He stated that crime rates are up in sanctuary cities because of illegal immigrants. It is not a safe environment for the legal citizens.

Mr. Kiley said that a former law enforcement official he is against making the state a safe harbor. He would like more information on how this might affect us financially. Representative Don Berthiaume was in attendance, and said that this bill had a very contentious public hearing, and that he plans on voting no.

Representative Berthiaume stated that the bill regarding Native American mascots probably won't go anywhere. In some arenas the name can be seen as a badge of honor and not something offensive, and there is not a lot of support in the legislature for this.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Berthiaume for his input.

#### **G. Potential changes to Right to Farm Bylaw**

Mr. Kiley presented a copy of the state's Right to Farm Law, which falls under zoning regulations. (Attachment #4) The Town's Right to Farm By-law does not have language that would require that animals are confined to an owner's property. He would like to ask the Planning Board to amend the by-law to include language regarding fencing capable of keeping animals in, along with graduated fines. Damage is occurring right now to property and there is nothing in the current by-law that will allow the police to step in. Mr. Kiley will work on some language for the next meeting.

#### **H. Roger Davis re: solar projects**

Resident Roger Davis of Bell Road was present to speak with the Selectmen about his objections regarding plans to build solar projects on town property. Mr. Davis stated that he is representing Citizens for Sensible Solar, a group opposed to the projects. Mr. Davis read from a prepared statement (Attachment #5) which said that his group opposes any and all solar projects which would require the destruction of woodland or other natural habitat.

Mr. Davis also presented a petition signed by 414 people objecting to these projects. Mr. Kiley asked that Mr. Davis have the petition validated by the Town Clerk in order to ascertain how many of the signers are from North Brookfield.

Mr. Davis stated that there is a 10% reduction in property values for properties located near solar facilities. Mr. Kiley asked how Mr. Davis came up with that number, and Mr. Davis said that it was only his estimation. Mr. Kiley said that he understands the point about property values, but town services benefit everyone and cost a lot of money. We need to increase revenues in order to provide these services. Mr. Hevy stated that the Selectmen are looking for ways to generate more revenue.

Mr. Davis said that the developer might spray pesticides under the panels, which will contaminate the soil. Mr. Kiley noted that his family has a large solar installation, and the grass is mowed under the panels, not sprayed. Mr. Davis said that he did contact Melink, who stated that they could stipulate that there be no chemicals, but Mr. Davis said that who will be watching to make sure that it does not happen?

Mr. Kiley stated that the Board met with Mellink recently, and they agreed to look for possible alternative locations to be developed in addition to the ones already discussed.

The Board thanked Mr. Davis for his input.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Dog licenses are now overdue, and there is a \$5 late fee**

Mr. Hevy announced that dog licenses are now overdue.

### **B. Representative Berthiaume office hours**

Mr. Hevy announced that Representative Donald Berthiaume will be in North Brookfield on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

## **VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **See attached list**

## **VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, at 7:30 PM Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant

**PROJECT STATUS AND PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S AGENDA ITEMS**  
Updated 041817

**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

Ask about COG (Insurance etc.)

Financial Forecasting  
Capital Planning

CMRPC/Regional Shared Services

IT Grant  
Town House restoration project

Bates Observatory

**STATUS**

Planning Final Remediation  
Quaboag Compiling info on  
Property Use  
Negotiating leases  
Pending  
Pending  
In progress  
Pending  
Pending

How to approach surrounding  
Towns?

Final report delivered  
Finalizing UMAS questions on  
School projects  
Final report due May 11.  
Regional survey - services being  
considered  
IT work in progress  
FOTH Capital Campaign  
Awaiting Great Hall Grant Results  
(June)  
BAY PATH Logo Contest  
Use Renderings Complete  
Pending