

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 5, 2015

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6 PM in the Senior Center with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Hevy also present. Mr. Smith reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

Mr. Smith noted that it is customary to reorganize the Board after the Annual Town Election. He stated that he would like to step down as chairman. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to reorganize the Board with Mr. Hevy as chair, Mrs. Walter as vice-chair, and Mr. Smith as clerk. So voted.

Mr. Hevy introduced State Representative Donald Berthiaume. Mr. Hevy told Mr. Berthiaume that the Selectmen hope to work with him to address issues that affect North Brookfield. Mr. Berthiaume promised to follow up on a grant application for a new fire truck that was filed through Homeland Security.

Mr. Hevy also welcomed Finance Committee members Chet Lubelczyk, Bob Locatelli, Sheila Orsi, and Debbie Maggio.

Mr. Smith explained to Representative Berthiaume how the state's Chapter 70 formula is hurting small towns like North Brookfield. In addition, the School Choice program will cost North Brookfield as much as \$730,000.00 this year for students who choose to attend other schools. Mr. Smith objects to students leaving the district for social or sports related desires.

Mr. Berthiaume stated that he and Representative Smola have filed legislation that would require any student who wants to leave a school district to meet with the superintendent first.

Mrs. Walter pointed out that everything gets old over time and wears out, and the Chapter 70 formula is failing.

Representative Berthiaume left the meeting at 6:20 PM. The Selectmen thanked him for his time and pledged to keep in touch.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **April 6, 2016**
- **April 8, 2015**
- **April 15, 2015**
- **April 21, 2015**
- **April 21, 2015 Executive Session minutes**
- **April 23, 2015**
- **April 28, 2015**
- **April 28, 2015 Executive Session minutes**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve all of the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1054 for \$104,933.72**
- **General Warrant #1055 for \$508,680.25**
- **Payroll Warrant #22 for \$283,272.67**

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **The public has the opportunity to briefly comment on agenda items through the Chairman**

Mr. Hevy noted that anyone in attendance could comment on any of tonight's agenda items through the chairman.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. FY 16 budgets

Mr. Smith passed out some information on the FY16 budget showing that there is approximately a \$302,032.00 deficit. (Attachment #1) The Selectmen and Finance Committee will continue to work on these numbers until the June town meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review town meeting articles

The Selectmen and Finance Committee reviewed motions for Friday night's Annual and Special town meetings. (Attachments #2 & #3) Mr. Lubelczyk said that the Finance Committee questioned the request of the school department for an additional \$32,000.00 for this year's budget. The Selectmen reviewed a memo from Superintendent Tencza explaining that there was no choice, and the items to be funded are necessary. (Attachment #4) Mr. Lubelczyk questioned the article for \$4,130.00 for the Fire Department, and was told that this is for a ground repeater, and is a safety issue for the men.

B. Draft appointment policy

Mr. Hevy stated that he will have this ready for the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Town Report

Mr. Hevy asked North Brookfield Emergency Squad Director Patrick Kiritsy and Board of Directors Chair Joe Holway to come up to the microphone. Mr. Hevy read the dedication from the 2014 Annual Town Report that was dedicated to the squad. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Kiritsy thanked the Selectmen for the recognition, and noted that the squad could not run without the support of the board. Mr. Kiritsy said that he is very proud to be a member of the squad and a resident of North Brookfield. Mr. Holway thanked all of the past members and administration of the squad.

B. Change of manager request from Sportsmen's Club

Leon Mimeault was present to ask to be appointed as bar manager of the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club. (Attachment #5) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the request and forward the paperwork on to the ABCC in Boston. So voted.

C. Murphy Road change order request

The Selectmen reviewed a memo from Fuss and O'Neill requesting a change order to their contract. (Attachment #6) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve task amendment #3. So voted.

D. Approval of liquor license for COA dinner

Mr. Hevy reviewed the application from the Friends of the North Brookfield COA for a liquor license for their May 15th Dinner Dance. (Attachment #7) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the license. So voted.

E. Resignation of William Skrobul

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from William Skrobul resigning from the Cable Advisory Committee. (Attachment #8) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret. So voted.

F. Letter re: Charter/Comcast merger

Mrs. Walter read a letter from Thomas Cohan of Charter Communications informing the Board that the proposed merger with Comcast will not be happening. (Attachment #9) Mr. Smith and Mrs. Walter noted that the entire cable system in North Brookfield needs to be upgraded.

G. Thank you letter from Jay Mooney

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Jay Mooney thanking the Board of Health and Sewer Departments for their assistance with a school garden project. (Attachment #10) It was agreed to forward copies of the letter to those departments.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Town wide Yard Sale May 23rd

Mrs. Walter announced that the North Brookfield PTO is once again sponsoring a town-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 23rd.

B. Hydrant flushing

Mr. Hevy announced that the Water Department will be flushing hydrants through May 22nd.

C. Town Meeting reminders

Mr. Smith reminded residents that there will be two town meetings this Friday night at the Elementary School beginning at 7 PM, and he urged everyone to attend.

D. Gobi office hours

Mr. Hevy announced that Tyler Wolanin from Senator Gobi's office will hold office hours in North Brookfield on May 19th from 5 PM to 6 PM, and then at 6 PM he will attend the Selectmen's meeting.

E. Color Fest 2015

Mrs. Walter reviewed a post card regarding the Music, Art and Color Fest to be held on Saturday, June 20th at the former Chooch's on East Brookfield Road. This event is a fundraiser for Wendemuth Meadow.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

Mr. Smith suggested that the Board focus on the budget for the next few meetings.

Mrs. Walter stated that there are problems with dogs in certain areas of town, and a review of the current dog by-law might be in order.

Mrs. Walter said that she would like to challenge Representative Berthiaume and Senator Gobi to assist the town in obtaining broadband service. The state says that North Brookfield has it, but it does not. Mr. Marshall from the Cable Advisory Committee stated that Verizon is only able to offer DSL in this area, not broadband. Mrs. Walter said that she has spoken to Mr. Wolanin from Senator Gobi's office about this.

Mr. Hevy said that he will work on an outline of issues to be discussed with Senator Gobi and Representative Berthiaume for the next meeting.

Mr. Smith suggested two meetings to discuss the impact of the School Choice program and the Chapter 70 formula on towns like North Brookfield.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **None**

There being no further business, at 8:10 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

**Wendemuth Meadow
School sign property
Solterra Agreement
NBDDP/Aztec
Gilbert Street Stormwater issues
Cable license renewal Oct 2015
Purchase Orders
Vacancies on town boards
Creation of Financial Advisory Committee
Personnel policies
Cemetery Road
Smith Hanson Road forestry plan**