

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **August 25, 2015**

Mrs. Walter asked that these minutes be amended to reflect that the dog May, owned by Shawna Olson, attacked the dog owned by Mary Lou Deslise, not Ms. Deslise. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as amended. So voted.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **Debt Warrant #1009 for \$826,452.19**
- **School Warrant #1010 for \$108,235.36**
- **General Warrant #1011 for \$238,486.63**
- **Payroll Warrant #5 for \$278,989.11**

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 announced that people in attendance would be able to comment on any of this evening's agenda items by going through himself as chairman.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **None**

There were no financial reports.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Beach appointments

Jason Ritner was present to ask to be appointed to the Town Beach Committee. He noted that he recently moved to town, and hopes to make an impact by helping the community. He believes that his military experience will be helpful. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Ritner. So voted.

B. Electronic policy/Social Media policy

Mr. Hevy noted that the Selectmen discussed this policy briefly at the last meeting, and they have all had the chance to review it. (Available in the Selectmen's office) There were no changes to be made. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve this policy. So voted.

C. Vacancies on town boards

Mr. Hevy reviewed the list of vacancies on town boards, which currently includes one Finance Committee member and two Finance Committee alternates, one Conservation Commission member, two Capital Improvement Planning Committee alternates, and two members for the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Hevy urged that anyone interested in serving to contact the Selectmen's office.

D. Cemetery Road

Mrs. Walter stated that she has completed the research into this issue, but has yet to compile the information into a formal report. She asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to perform work at boat ramp

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Tim Lowkes on behalf of the Lake Lashaway Community Association asking for permission to repair the Shore Road boat ramp and parking area. (Attachment #1) According to Mr. Lowkes, the land is owned by New England Power, but the town has an easement for the boat ramp, along with the right to maintain it. All materials, equipment, and labor will be donated; there will be no cost to the town.

The Selectmen all stated that they had no objections to the work, but asked that the work be coordinated with the Highway Department, and that the Conservation Commission be notified. Mr. Lowkes stated that he plans to attend the September 22nd Conservation meeting, and he has already spoken to Highway Superintendent Gary Jean.

Mrs. Walter asked for a plan of the work to be done, and Mr. Lowkes stated that the plan will be dictated by Conservation Commission instructions. After the September 22nd meeting the plans will be drawn, and they will include any requirements from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the work, subject to Conservation Commission approval. So voted.

B. Letter from Senior Center re: Charter

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Senior Center Director Diane Nichols regarding the difficulty being experienced by some seniors who are trying to sign up for the "senior discount" offered by Charter Communications. (Attachment #2) Ms. Nichols suggested that Charter be asked to provide an occasional on-site representative to help with the process. The Selectmen agreed that the process should not be this difficult. Mr. Smith stated that he would contact Tom Cohan from Charter to address this situation.

C. Process for handling citizen complaints

Mr. Smith noted that the Selectmen would like to formalize the process for handling complaints from citizens. When the Selectmen receive a complaint it should be forwarded to the appropriate department. The Selectmen do always receive follow up information from the department on the resolution of the complaint. Mrs. Walter stated that all complaints should be in writing. Mr. Smith will put the process in writing for future discussion.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Planning Board hearing notice**

Mr. Hevy read an announcement from the Planning Board that they will be holding a public hearing on the application of Jenner Renewable Holdings for a variance to the provisions for setbacks and natural buffer for large solar projects. (Attachment #3) The hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30 PM in the Senior Center.

- **Town Forest informational woods walk**

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Ross Hubacz that he will be hosting an informational woods walk on Saturday, October 3rd at the Town Forest on West Brookfield Road.

- **Brookfield Orchards Craft Fair**

Mr. Smith reviewed an announcement from Brookfield Orchards that they will be sponsoring a Harvest Craft Fair on Saturday, September 12th from 10 AM to 4 PM.

- **Tyler Wolanin office hours**

Mr. Hevy announced that Senator Gobi's District Aide, Tyler Wolanin, will be holding office hours at the North Brookfield Town Offices on Wednesday, September 16th from 2 PM to 3 PM.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:50 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to contract negotiations. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Walter, yes; Smith, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 9:30 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. 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

Solterra Agreement

NBDDP/Aztec

Gilbert Street Stormwater issues

Purchase Orders

Creation of Financial Advisory Committee

Personnel policies

Meeting with Gobi and Berthiaume

Fees for one-day liquor licenses