

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 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

- **September 17, 2015**
- **September 22, 2015**

Mr. Hevy noted that approval of these minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

- **October 15, 2015**
- **October 16, 2015**
- **October 20, 2015**

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

- **October 26, 2015**

Mr. Hevy noted that approval of these minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

- **October 27, 2015**
- **October 28, 2015**

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

- **November 2, 2015**

Mr. Hevy noted that approval of these minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1020 for \$88,842.49**
- **General Warrant #1021 for \$361,453.80**
- **Payroll Warrant #9 for \$281,820.65**

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 anyone in attendance would be able to comment on any of this evening's agenda items.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **FY17 Budget Policy and Guidelines**

Mrs. Walter distributed a draft of the FY17 Budget Policy (Attachment #1), which Mr. Hevy then reviewed. After some discussion, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the policy. So voted.

Mrs. Walter distributed the FY17 Budget Guidelines (Attachment #2), which Mr. Smith reviewed. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the guidelines. So voted.

Mrs. Walter distributed the FY17 Budget Timeline (Attachment #3) which she reviewed. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the timeline. So voted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- **None**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignation of Cody Thomasian

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Officer Cody Thomasian resigning his position with the Police Department. (Attachment #4) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret, and to send a letter of thanks. So voted.

B. Letter of Support for HMGP

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter to be sent to Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) in support of an updated Pre Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Attachment #5) The Town's current plan expires in 2017, and without a plan the Town would become ineligible to access FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the letter. So voted.

C. Police Department monthly report

Police Chief Mark Smith reviewed his departmental report for the month of October. (Attachment #6) He reported 26 incidents and 26 arrest/summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Chief Smith reported that he has advertised on the CJIS website for two full-time officers, and has received 10 applications so far.

D. Fire Department monthly report

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to deliver a departmental report for the year to date. (Attachment #7) According to Chief Gannon, there have been 11 structure fires, 5 chimney fires, and 15 outside fires this year. In addition, out of 171 burning permits issued, none have gotten out of control. Chief Gannon reported that the Training Center located on East Brookfield Road is being used by many area towns. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

E. David Thomas re: Net metering credits

Dave Thomas of Seaboard Solar was present to offer to the Town net metering credits from the SREC 2 program. (Attachment #8) Mr. Thomas explained that his company has projects under construction right now, and has sold credits to many towns and housing authorities in the area. The discount he is offering is currently 22% with a signing bonus of \$58,500.00. His projects should start delivering credits by the spring.

Mrs. Walter asked if municipalities can participate under SREC2, and Mr. Thomas stated that there were big incentives under SREC1 that were sold to municipalities. The state has said that under SREC2 there was to be no more large solar projects, but municipalities can still participate. Mr. Thomas believes that if the Town waits for SREC3 it will pay more for electricity.

Mr. Hevy stated that he really needed more time to digest all of this information. He thanked Mr. Thomas for his time.

F. Letter from Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Treasurer Anne Jannette informing the Selectmen that the Insurance Advisory Committee is recommending some changes to the health insurance for the Town's retirees. (Attachment #9) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the recommendations of the IAC. So voted.

G. Sign Cultural Council contract

Mrs. Walter read a letter from Michael Nagle, Fiscal Officer for the Massachusetts Cultural Council regarding the Town's FY16 apportionment. (Attachment #10) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to sign the contract accepting the \$4,500.00 grant for North Brookfield. So voted.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Town Meeting Friday night at 7:30 PM**

Mr. Hevy reminded residents that there will be a Special Town Meeting Friday night at 7 PM. He urged everyone to attend.

- **SCORE meeting at library**

Mr. Smith announced that a series of free workshops for small businesses will be held at the Haston Library. The first one will feature Erin Howard speaking about business websites.

- **Tax Classification Hearing Nov 9th @ 9 AM**

Mrs. Walter announced that there will be a tax classification hearing on Monday, November 9th at 9 AM in the Selectmen's office. The Selectmen will determine the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal 2016.

- **Vacancies on Town Boards**

Mr. Hevy read a list of vacancies on various town boards, and encouraged those interested to contact the Selectmen's office. Mrs. Walter noted that since the Town House project is now complete, the Town House Advisory Committee should be dissolved.

- **Water main flushing**

Mr. Hevy read a memo from the Water Department that they will continue to flush hydrants through Saturday, November 7th.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:40 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Walter, yes; Smith, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 7:50 PM the Board exited 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

NBDDP/Aztec

Cable license renewal

Purchase Orders

Creation of Financial Advisory Committee

Personnel policies

Cemetery Road

Bids on health insurance