

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 23, 2014

Mrs. Walter called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's office at 10 AM with Mr. Smith also present.

Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith reviewed a January 13<sup>th</sup> e-mail from Police Chief Aram Thomasian informing the Board that he would begin advertising for a new police officer to replace Officer Kendall Perrault. (Attachment #1) According to Chief Thomasian, North Brookfield's starting pay of under \$30,000.00 per year will make it difficult to attract a trained officer.

Mr. Smith noted that he has spoken with the Chief, and the replacement officer is a necessity, otherwise the Chief will have to use overtime to fill shifts.

Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith agreed that it would be helpful for them to have a listing of how many men are on each of the three shifts. Mr. Smith said that he would like to see the shift listed and then the name of the officer scheduled to work.

At 10:30 AM Chief Thomasian joined the meeting. The Chief explained that he really needs to replace Officer Perrault, and he would like to get an academy trained officer. However, it will be difficult to get a trained officer at the \$14.57 starting rate. The Selectmen pointed out that in the past exceptions have been made for an experienced officer.

Chief Thomasian passed out a draft Recruit Training Fee Agreement, which would stipulate that an officer would stay for a period of 3 to 5 years in exchange for the Town paying for the officer to attend the police academy. (Attachment #2) This might be good if the Town cannot obtain a trained officer.

The Chief noted that if he hired part-time officers instead of a full-time one, there is a cost to his department for uniforms and equipment. It was agreed that the Chief will state in the ad that "prior experience is required," and that his first choice will be an experienced officer, and that if there are no good experienced candidates the Town will consider paying for an inexperienced officer to attend the academy. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to consider a waiver to the \$14.57 starting rate in the event that the Chief secures an experienced candidate for the position. So voted.

The Selectmen and Chief Thomasian also discussed a K-9 grant that Sergeant Daley is interested in. The Selectmen sent the Chief a letter in which they asked him to make a written recommendation on the feasibility and sustainability of such a grant. (Attachment #3) The Chief noted that his recommendation will be based upon whether or not he has enough officers to allow one the time needed in order to care for and work with a dog, and also whether or not he feels that the Town can afford to sustain the K-9 position after the grant money goes away.

Mrs. Walter said that the Selectmen wonder if the K-9 grant might work out better with a regional group of towns instead of just North Brookfield. The Chief noted that he still has not filled the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer; does the Board want him to fill it? Mrs. Walter said that he should wait until the next fiscal year.

The Chief left the meeting at 11:20 AM. Mr. Chabot called the meeting at 11:25 AM, and Mrs. Walter briefed him on what had transpired during the meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn at 11:45 AM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant