

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MARCH 11, 2014**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Smith also present. Mr. Chabot was present via cell phone.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014
APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2014

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to defer action on the March 4th minutes. So voted.

**IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL INTEREST WARRANT #1045 FOR \$65,310.00
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1046 FOR \$93,150.80
APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1047 FOR \$282,579.95
APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #19 FOR \$281,804.98**

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. AGREEMENT WITH PVPC RE: HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Mrs. Walter reviewed a proposed agreement with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to administer approximately \$50,000.00 from previous housing rehabilitation programs that can be used to rehab 2 to 3 units. (Available in the Selectmen's office) PVPC is administering a housing rehabilitation program that will do approximately 8 units in North Brookfield, and they have offered to administer these additional units at the same time. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign the agreement to have PVPC administer the additional funds. So voted.

B. QUESTION FROM PVPC RE: TOWN/OWNER AGREEMENTS

Mr. Smith reviewed an e-mail from Andrew Loew of PVPC asking if the Selectmen want to designate PVPC to handle the town-owner contracts for the additional units to be done. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter noted that there will be only 2 or 3 agreements, and Mr. Chabot stated that the \$50,000.00

isn't much money either. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to authorize PVPC to make these agreements on the town's behalf. So voted.

C. PROJECT UPDATES

Mrs. Walter explained that the Town is still waiting for the state contract for the Murphy Road Bridge project. She stated that there are no matching funds required from the Town. She asked for permission from the other two Selectmen to sign the contract when it comes in so that there will not be any delay. Mr. Smith so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

Mrs. Walter then explained that she attended a meeting of The Friends of the Town House last night. The Friends have begun the process of forming an LLC that will be needed for the tax credit process. Mrs. Walter noted that there is good news from Washington, DC; Representative McGovern is interested in the project and wants to help.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Mass Historic Commission has given permission to put gold leaf on the top finial of the bell tower. She also stated that she gives Jeff Samuelson a lot of credit for continuing to work on the tower during this arduous winter.

D. THANK YOU NOTE FROM NEW BRAINTREE BOS TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Walter reviewed a note from the New Braintree Board of Selectmen thanking the Fire Department for their assistance during a recent house fire in New Braintree. (Attachment #2) Mr. Chabot pointed out that mutual aid is very important to all small towns, which we learned during the fire at Valley View School in October.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PING4 PRESENTATION

Mrs. Walter noted that representatives of Ping4 were unable to be here tonight, but residents can download this free smartphone application that receives weather and safety alerts based on your location. Instructions for this download are available on the Town's website. The Selectmen are going to introduce to certain town departments an enhanced version that will allow the departments to issue their own alerts to people in a certain area. There will be more information on this in the next few weeks.

B. COA REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT

Senior Center Director Carol Wheeler was present to ask the Board to appoint Mary Sawyer as the new Program Assistant. Mrs. Wheeler reported that a search committee comprised of Senior Center staff and Council on Aging members reviewed resumes and interviewed several candidates before choosing Ms. Sawyer. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to appoint Ms. Sawyer. So voted. Mrs. Walter emphasized that Ms. Sawyer is a replacement employee; this is not a new position.

C. READYBUS PROPOSAL

Mrs. Walter reviewed information from Tim O'Day of SCM Elderbus regarding a new program called READYBUS that would provide rides to and from work for residents who live and work in North Brookfield. (Attachment #3) The Selectmen discussed the best way to provide this information to residents, and it was agreed to put the flyers in the lobby of the town offices, put the information on the Town's website, NB Cares, and the Senior Center. Residents who are interested in the program should contact the Board of Selectmen by the end of the month.

D. LETTER FROM FRIENDS OF TOWN HOUSE

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from Julie McCarthy, President of the Friends of the Town House asking when the bell tower will be returned to the building. (Attachment #4) Mr. Chabot suggested speaking with Mr. Samuelson to ask for a "range" of dates, but noted that Jeff has to be the driving force. Mr. Smith stated that in his opinion Jeff has to be the one to make the call and it will depend on the weather. Mrs. Walter noted that one of the things that was discussed at the Friends meeting last night was that there are many events happening in the spring and we don't want to have any conflicts. It was agreed that Mr. Smith would contact Mr. Samuelson to discuss potential dates.

E. ACCEPT CHECK FROM CHARTER FOR LPAC GIFT ACCOUNT

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Charter Communications (Attachment #5) that was sent along with a check for \$603.50. This amount is based on .50 per subscriber, and the money goes to help maintain the Local Public Access equipment. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the check into the LPAC Gift Account. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. ANDY CARON RESOLUTION

Mr. Smith read a resolution from the Selectmen that was given to Andy Caron on Saturday to mark the occasion of his 20th year with the North Brookfield Youth Basketball League. (Attachment #6) Mr. Smith noted that thanks should also go out to the coaches and their wives, and all of the other people who do so much for the children in North Brookfield.

B. ELECTION UPDATE

Mr. Smith reviewed the list of offices up for election and possible candidates from the Town Clerk for the May 5th Annual Town Election. The last day to return papers is March 17th, and the last day to register to vote is April 15th.

C. CMRPC PRESENTATION RE: AMBULANCE STUDY

Mrs. Walter announced that the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission (CMRPC) will be presenting their findings of a study of ambulance services in the Brookfield, New Braintree, Hardwick and Oakham on Wednesday, March 12th at the New Braintree Town Hall.

D. KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Mr. Smith announced that kindergarten registration will be held March 27th and 28th at the North Brookfield Elementary School.

E. DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that dog licenses are now due. The cost is \$6 for dogs that are spayed or neutered, and \$10 for those that are not.

F. RABIES CLINIC APRIL 12TH

Mrs. Walter also reminded residents that there will be a rabies clinic on April 12th at the Second Chance Animal Shelter from 9 AM to 11 AM. The town clerk will be there to sell dog licenses as well.

G. TOWN HOUSE COLLECTIBLES

Mrs. Walter showed several Town House collectibles, including a book of memories of the Town House that was put together by Marilyn Borst, and Cat's Meow wooden replica, and a DVD entitled "Ward Hollow" that was filmed by Tyler Nickerson.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. FY 15 BUDGETS

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen met with the Finance Committee last week to discuss priorities for FY15. She said that the Selectmen and Finance Committee anticipate a substantial snow and ice deficit that will have to be taken care of. She also stated that the Selectmen do appreciate that residents take the time to call with their comments or complaints.

At 6:55 PM Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to negotiations with non-union personnel, and to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining. Roll call: Walter, yes; Smith, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 7:40 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant