

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 22, 2014

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:05 PM with Mr. Smith also present. Mr. Chabot was present remotely via cell phone.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014 APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

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

IA. APPROVAL OF REFUND WARRANT #1055 FOR \$2,964.85 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1056 FOR \$63,717.36 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #22 FOR \$287,304.26

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. SIGN TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

The Selectmen reviewed two town meeting warrants, one for a Special Town Meeting on May 9th, and another one for the Annual Town Election on May 5th and the Annual Town Meeting on May 9th. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign and post both warrants. So voted.

B. UPDATE ON FIRE TRUCK

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen have received an e-mail from the Town of Hardwick stating that they are no longer interested in purchasing the fire truck that they have been storing for us. It was agreed to list the truck for sale as soon as possible and take whatever is bid.

C. JOE HOLWAY RE: ALS PROPOSAL

Joe Holway, Director of the North Brookfield Emergency Squad, Inc. (NBEMS) was present to speak with the Selectmen on what he called a "window of opportunity" for NBEMS to obtain Advanced Life Support (ALS) intercepts. This would also assist the towns of East Brookfield and Brookfield by supplementing their 24 x 7 shifts. Mr. Holway stated that the state is pushing for the squads to regionalize their services. Josh McCrillin, East Brookfield's emergency services coordinator stated that he spoke with the state earlier today and they are very receptive to the idea of the three towns

combining efforts. This plan would ensure that at least one paramedic is on duty every night.

Mr. Holway noted that there would still be three trucks available to service the 10,000 residents within the three towns. In addition, regionalizing services would open up opportunities to obtain grants.

Mrs. Walter asked Mr. Holway to explain the difference between ALS and Basic EMT service. Mr. Holway said that ALS service is critical in trauma or cardiac cases, because the paramedics can administer services that EMTs cannot.

Mr. Holway asked for the support of the Board as he pursues this possibility. Mr. Chabot stated that it is a great idea, but the Finance Committee should have some input on whether or not the funds are available. Finance Committee chairman Eric Hevy was present, and he stated that the Finance Committee has been briefed on the plan and fully supports it, but wondered how the Town can fund it. Mr. Smith said that everyone here supports this, and confirmed with Mr. Hevy that if the Selectmen endorse this now there will still be time to figure out how to arrange the financing.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to support the efforts of the three towns working together to obtain better ALS coverage. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION OF TOWN REPORT

Mark McGrail, nephew of the late John Lane, accepted the 2013 Annual Town Report on behalf of the Lane family. The report is dedicated to Mr. Lane, who served on almost every town board or committee during his lifetime.

Also, Jeff Samuelson showed off the gold finial that will be mounted on top of the bell tower when it is reinstalled on the Town House. The gold leaf was paid for by donations in Mr. Lane's memory to the Friends of the Town House. Mr. Samuelson explained that the gold leaf is 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ karat, and is so thin that there is not enough of it to make a wedding band. He projected that the gold leaf should last 30 to 50 years. He has some extra gold leaf left over, and he intends to place it inside the finial to be used when necessary sometime in the future.

Mr. Samuelson stated that he spoke with James Igoe earlier in the day and informed Mr. Igoe that he cannot accommodate a June 21st date for the tower reinstallation. Mr. Samuelson intends to put the tower up on May 17th, but explained that he still has a couple of weeks of work to be done after the tower goes up. He suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony be done at a later date to accommodate the various dignitaries.

Mr. Smith noted that the Selectmen need to speak with a few other people and will get back to Mr. Samuelson.

B. TOWN WIDE CLEANUP DAY

Mr. Smith reviewed an announcement from the Decorate Our Town (DOT) committee. (Attachment #1) The announcement, which was signed by DOT co-chairs Julie McCarthy and Trish Miller, reviews the plans for the annual town-wide cleanup day. Residents are encouraged to pick up trash on their street anytime during the month of April, and bring that trash to the Highway Department garage on Saturday April 26th from 9 AM to 3 PM. Also, American flags that need to be properly destroyed will be collected at that time.

C. FINANCE COMMITTEE RE: FY15 BUDGET UPDATE

Eric Hevy, chairman of the Finance Committee, was present to update the Selectmen on his committee's progress with the FY15 budget. Mr. Hevy reported that the committee has received a budget from every department, and is in the process of meeting with the various department heads. As of right now the budget is showing a \$403,000.00 deficit. Mrs. Walter thanked Mr. Hevy, and noted that the Selectmen applaud the committee for their efforts during these difficult financial times.

D. WATER DEPT REQUEST TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR TREATMENT OF HORSE POND

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Water Department asking for the Selectmen to sign a contract with Lycott Environmental for the treatment of algae at the Horse Pond Reservoir. (Attachment #2) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

E. MASS DOT LETTER RE: "WINTER RAPID RECOVERY ROAD"

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) informing the Town that the state has awarded \$46,931.00 to address problems caused by this year's harsh winter. (Attachment #3) Plans for the work need to be approved by the state by June 30th, and all work must be completed by September 30th. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

F. REQUEST FOR COMMON VICTUALLERS LICENSE

Mrs. Walter reviewed an application for a Common Victualler License for Debra O'Neill, doing business as Debba's Country Kitchen at 37 Grove Street. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Ms. O'Neill presented her permits from the Board of Health and a Business Certificate from the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the license. So voted.

G. REQUEST FOR ONE-DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE

Mr. Smith reviewed an application from the Friends of the Council on Aging for a one-day liquor license on May 16th for their annual dinner. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the license. So voted.

H. E-MAIL FROM ANDREW LOEW RE: HOUSING REHAB FUNDS

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Andrew Loew of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission asking if the Selectmen want the recaptured housing rehab funds to be used for emergency projects instead of regular projects that may be on the waiting list. (Attachment #4) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to work with the existing list to fund emergency situations rather than seeking out new projects. So voted.

I. REQUEST TO CLOSE SCHOOL STREET MAY 16TH FROM 2 PM TO 5:30 PM

Mrs. Walter noted that Quabaug Corporation has requested permission to close School Street on May 16th from 2 PM to 5:30 PM for an anniversary celebration. Mr. Caron has already spoken to the Police Chief about this. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

J. MARCH POLICE REPORT

Mr. Chabot reviewed the police report for the month of March as submitted by Chief Thomasian. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The Chief reported 18 incidents and 19 arrest/summons for the month. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

K. SOLTERRA UPDATE

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Steve Plonsker of Solterra, the company that is building a large solar facility at the abbey in Spencer. (Attachment #5) The Town hopes to purchase net-metering credits from this facility. Mr. Plonsker reported that the application for a Special Use Permit has been approved by the Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals last week, and is hoping for Planning Board approval sometime in May.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. ELECTION UPDATE

Mr. Smith reviewed the ballot for the May 5th Annual Town Election. (Available in the Town Clerk's office) Mr. Smith explained that there will be a question on the ballot asking to exclude the payments for the Bay Path Vocational School renovation project from Proposition 2 ½. Exempting these payments from the levy limit will allow the funds to be used for another purpose. Mrs. Walter noted that absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk until Friday, May 2nd.

B. ZBA HEARING NOTICE

Mrs. Walter reviewed a hearing notice from the Zoning Board of Appeals announcing that they will be holding a public hearing on Monday, May 12th on the application of Michael McCarthy and Nancy Jankauskas for a variance to the set-back requirements at 145 Ward Street.

C. MAY FESTIVAL

The Selectmen reviewed information submitted by Harbour Fraser Hodder on behalf of the Haston Free Public Library, the Cultural Council and the Friends of Wendemuth Meadow. On Saturday, May 3rd the library will hold its annual May Festival of Local Food, Farms and Gardens from 10 AM to 2 PM. There will be a free plant swap, nature crafts for kids, and door prizes. From 1 PM to 4 PM the Friends of Wendemuth Meadow will be hosting an open house at the property.

D. COA DINNER DANCE

Mrs. Walter announced that the Friends of the Council on Aging will be hosting their 12th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Friday, May 16th with a cocktail hour beginning at 6 PM. Tickets are \$15 each.

E. ANNUAL VFW POPPY DRIVE

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Frank Potter announcing that the VFW Post 3439 will be holding their annual Poppy Drive during the week before Memorial Day at Cumberland Farms, the North Brookfield Savings Bank, the Post Office and the Recycling Center.

F. HYDRANT FLUSHING

Mr. Chabot announced that the Water Department will be flushing hydrants from April 28th to May 23rd. This may cause temporary discoloration of the water, and residents are advised to avoid doing laundry while this discoloration exists.

G. DOG LICENSES

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that dog licenses are now available from the Town Clerk's office. The cost is \$6 for dogs that are spayed or neutered, and \$10 for those that are not. There will be a \$5 late fee after June 1st, and a \$25 late fee after September 1st.

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean reminding the Selectmen of the estimated cost to repair drainage problems at 57 and 61 Gilbert Street. The Selectmen agreed that it is good that Mr. Jean is bringing the issue up so that it is not overlooked. Mrs. Walter said that she has also heard that there is a drainage problem on Bigelow Street from Summer Street. The affected resident will be sending a letter to the Board.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Smith noted that the budget will be discussed again.

Mrs. Walter said the Murphy Road Bridge will be starting soon.

Mr. Smith suggested that the Town House will also be a topic for discussion.

Mr. Chabot thanked everyone for their support over the years, as this will be his last meeting. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Walter thanked Mr. Chabot for his hard work.

At 7:55 PM Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to negotiations with non-union personnel. Roll call: Walter, yes; Smith, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8 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