

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AUGUST 19, 2008

Chairman Foyle called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with all members present.

I. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2008 as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1007 for \$95,348.90. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1008 for \$83,224.39. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #4 for \$164,259.94. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle read an announcement from the Town Clerk reminding residents that the last day to register to vote in the September 16th Special Town Election or State Primary Election will be Wednesday, August 27th.

B. Mr. Caldwell read a letter from CMRPC asking that the selectmen appoint the town's alternate representative to the commission. Mr. Foyle stated that Jim Metcalf, the town's former representative, should be contacted first to see if he is still interested. If he is not, Mr. Foyle asked that any resident who is interested in serving contact the selectmen.

C. Mrs. Walter read a letter from M. O. R. E., a consortium of towns trying to consolidate services and cut costs, asking for \$1,445.00 as the town's share to join. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to table the item for further discussion. So voted.

D. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign a contract with Thomas Scanlan and Associates to perform the FY08 and FY09 town audits. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant for the September 16th Special Town Election. So voted.

B. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant for the September 16th State Primary Election. So voted.

C. Mr. Caldwell read a letter from Matthew Terkanian, owner of Subway of Holden, asking for a common victualler's license in order to re-open Subway of North Brookfield in the Star Building. Mr. Terkanian and his brother recently bought the building. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the license. So voted. The selectmen also commended Mr. Terkanian for the nice paint job recently done on the building.

D. Mr. Foyle read a letter from EPA announcing that the town has received a \$50,000.00 Targeted Brownfields Assessment Grant. This grant will be used to do more test borings on the NBDD site.

E. Mrs. Walter reviewed the police department report for the month of July as submitted by Chief Thomasian. The report indicated that there were 44 incidents and 15 arrest/summons during the month. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report and place a copy on file. So voted.

F. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept a donation of \$25 from Walsh / CDI Insurance Agency of West Brookfield for the Bates Observatory Gift Fund. So voted.

G. Mr. Caldwell read a letter from the Town of Spencer announcing that they will be closing North Brookfield Road in Spencer for three weeks to do a drainage project. North Brookfield Road in Spencer is Hillsville Road in North Brookfield and this may affect residents using that road.

H. Mrs. Walter read a hearing notice from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the application of Stephen Howe of 80 Old East Brookfield Road for a variance to the side set back requirements. The hearing will be held on August 27th at 7 PM at the Haston Library.

I. Mr. Caldwell read a notice from the North Brookfield PTA regarding their Annual Ice Cream Social to be held on September 10th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

J. Mrs. Walter read a notice from the Playground Committee that there will be a free movie night on the town common on Sunday, August 31st at dusk.

K. Holly Weilsma, Bert DuVernay, and Dick Chabot from the North Brookfield Emergency Squad were present to discuss a proposed contract between the town and the squad. Ms. Weilsma had previously drafted a contract, but the town's legal counsel had recommended some changes. Ms. Weilsma stated that she thought town counsel's recommendations were "unreasonable and irrelevant." Specifically, Ms. Weilsma stated that the squad objected to language that would allow the town to start its own service; the squad objected to language asking for two ambulances to be available, which Ms.

Weilsma stated would be cost prohibitive; and that the \$25,000.00 fee that the town would pay is not sufficient.

Mr. Foyle noted that since the squad also covers other towns, specifically New Braintree, he would like to see those towns contribute. Mr. Foyle also asked about charging for services rendered when a patient refuses to be transported, but according to Ms. Weilsma, that would violate state law. Mr. Chabot noted that the squad must offer services and transportation to any one who needs it, even if the squad knows they will not get paid.

Ms. Walter asked about opportunities to increase the squad's revenue, and Chief DuVernay noted that the squad would never refuse any opportunity to increase its revenue; that is why a merger with Hardwick EMS was considered.

Chief DuVernay also stated that the New Braintree Selectmen seriously considered paying a stipend to the squad, but decided against it when they thought North Brookfield was not going to pay.

Mr. Foyle reiterated his stand that towns that do not have their own EMS service that provide mutual aid with North Brookfield should contribute to the NBEMS. Mr. Foyle questioned whether or not the squad should also consider signing a contract with New Braintree for services.

Ms. Weilsma presented a contract with her proposed changes.

Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to take the proposed changes under advisement, and meet with the squad again on September 2nd. So voted.

At 8:20 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to go off-camera to sign bills. So voted.

The selectmen signed the bi-weekly bills and payrolls.

At 8:40 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant