

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AUGUST 5, 2008

Mrs. Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mr. Caldwell also present. Mr. Foyle was away on business.

I. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2008 as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1004 for \$123,183.20. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1005 for \$241,418.55. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #3 for \$162,755.93. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Caldwell read an announcement from Town Clerk Sheila Buzzell regarding the September 16th State Primary Election and Special Town Election. The last day to register to vote at either election is Wednesday, August 27th. Two people will be on the ballot in the contest to replace Mr. Caldwell; those people are Dane Falardeau, and Jason Petraitis.

B. Mrs. Walter announced that the Playground Committee is sponsoring a golf tournament this Saturday at Quail Hollow in Oakham. Mrs. Walter urged everyone to support this worthy cause.

C. Mrs. Walter noted that a local resident has submitted a petition asking that a "pooper scooper" by-law be placed on the next town meeting warrant. Mrs. Walter stated that the selectmen are taking this problem very seriously, and reiterated her words from the last selectmen's meeting that there are town by-laws in place governing public nuisances, and these by-laws should be enforced. Mrs. Walter asked that people call the Animal Control Officer with their complaints so that the offending dog-owners can be cited and fined.

Mr. Caldwell noted that the selectmen will place the article on the next town meeting, after verification of the signatures by the Town Clerk.

D. Eric Hevy, co-chair of the Police Building Committee, was in to present the selectmen with a contract signed by Tecton Architects, Inc., the firm chosen to design the new police facility. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to enter into an agreement with Tecton. So voted and signed.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire Chief James Black came to inform the Board that there was only one bid received for the new ladder truck, from Rosenbauer. The price was \$999,673.00. The sum of \$197,244.00 will be due when the chassis is delivered, but it will be approximately 5 months before the town will need to come up with that money. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to enter into an agreement with Rosenbauer for the new aerial ladder truck, pending town counsel approval of the contract. So voted.

B. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to enter in to a lease agreement with Troy Brown, trustee of the Duncan Block Realty Trust, for office space for town employees, amending the occupancy date to September 15, 2008. So voted and signed.

C. Deputy Fire Chief Brad Gannon gave the departmental report for the months of June and July. He reported one structure fire, two motor vehicle accidents, 11 false alarms, and one water rescue in Warren where 6 children were trapped on an island in the river. In addition, the department reported training sessions with live burns at the training center, and an advanced scuba diving class. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

D. Police Chief Aram Thomasian delivered his report for the month of June. He reported 37 incidents and 33 arrests. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report and place a copy on file. So voted.

E. Brandon Avery was in to deliver the final draft of the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. This purpose of this project was to "identify specific places that help define the character of a community and reflect its past." Mr. Avery delivered a report for North Brookfield, and also a regional report that encompasses the Upper Quaboag Watershed and North Quabbin areas. The reports also make recommendations on ways to help preserve these sites. Copies of the reports will be available in the Library and also at the Town Clerk's office.

F. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to take under advisement a request from CMRPC asking the selectmen to appoint an alternate. So voted.

G. Mr. Caldwell read an announcement from MIIA, the town's insurer, that North Brookfield received \$3,249.00 in rewards credits for FY08. These credits are awarded when the town offers training for its employees, or takes steps to lower the town's risk.

H. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept a donation of \$100.00 to the Bates Observatory Gift Fund from Connie Mack III, the grandson of the great baseball player. So voted.

I. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the donation of a 2000 Ford Explorer from Cheryl Rumley to the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency. So voted.

J. Mrs. Walter read two letters from Charles Lindgren, chairman of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee asking for input on the FY10 budget. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to take the letters under advisement for further discussion when Mr. Foyle is present. So voted.

K. A request for funding from M.O.R.E., a consortium of local towns hoping to reduce costs and consolidate services, was tabled for the next meeting so that the board members will have time to adequately consider the proposal.

L. A hiring and termination policy to be added to the town's employee handbook was also tabled for further discussion.

At 7:45 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to go off-camera to sign bills. So voted.

At 8 PM, after signing the bi-weekly bills and payrolls, Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant