

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2008

Chairman Foyle called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mrs. Walter also present. Mr. Petraitis was absent due to work commitments.

I. Mr. Foyle thanked the many department heads and town employees for coming. Mr. Foyle also thanked everyone who helped out curing the recent ice storm, but noted that the town is now facing another peril, this one financial. The selectmen and finance committee want to be proactive in case the state reneges on local aid that the town is expecting in this fiscal year. The selectmen have already instituted a freeze on overtime, and have asked town departments to delay any unnecessary spending. At this time town departments are being asked to consider ways to cut 5% - 10% from their current year's budgets.

Mr. Foyle reported that the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation has forecast a dire drop in state revenue, and increasing unemployment for the next few years.

Bob Smith of the Finance Committee echoed Mr. Foyle's sentiments, stating that the town needs to be prepared not only for this fiscal year, but also for FY2010.

Mr. Foyle noted that the \$1 million in the town's Stabilization Account is not up for grabs, because if the balance in that account is reduced, the town will pay a higher rate for borrowing.

School Committee Chairman Jeff Hicks expressed concern that a 10% cut in the school's budget is \$57,000, which would be painful for the school.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Rodney Jenkins asked if the 10% cuts included salaries. Mr. Foyle stated that the selectmen do not want to cut salaries at this point. Mrs. Walter noted that the consequences of not starting this budget process now could be potential layoffs of town personnel.

At 7:50 PM Mr. Foyle thanked everyone for coming.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle read an e-mail from School Committee chairman Jeff Hicks noting that the school committee has voted to endorse the formation of a task force to study future options for the school district as presented in a proposal by James Metcalf. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to support the Educational Master Plan as proposed by Mr. Metcalf, and to endorse the formation of the task force. So voted.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to sign letters from the selectmen and Sewer Department to EPA regarding the metals removal consent order, one a scope of work with SEA, and the other a report on the work done to date. So voted and signed.

B. Mr. Foyle read an announcement from the Board of Health that the Recycling Center will be accepting storm-related perishables for disposal on Wednesday. A sticker or town yellow trash bags are not needed, as this is open to all residents.

C. Emergency Management Director Douglas Blood was present to ask the selectmen to sign a Mutual Aid Agreement for emergency services between the 4 Brookfields and Spencer. Sergeant Blood explained that the five agencies already help each other out, and this is just a formalization of the current situation. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to sign the agreement. So voted and signed.

D. Mr. Foyle reviewed a list submitted by Sergeant Blood of people to be appointed to the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency (NBEMA). Those people are: John Hart, Lorell McComas, Mary-Ann Byszek, Corey Buzzell, John Sidebottom, and Gary McComas. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to appoint the above named persons to the NBEMA. So voted.

E. A request from the Central Massachusetts Emergency Medical Systems Corporation to appoint two representatives from North Brookfield was tabled until the next meeting.

F. A memo from Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel and Treasurer Anne Jannette requesting a Reserve Fund transfer in order to purchase a new server was handled by the Finance Committee.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant