

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JULY 22, 2008

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

I. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2008 as written, and July 18, 2008 as amended. So voted.

IA. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve Highway Temporary Loan Warrant #1001 for \$95,194.42. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1002 for \$19,537.21. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve General Warrant #1003 for \$321,920.02. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve Payroll Warrant #2 for \$164,243.28. So voted.

Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1069 for \$20,558.26. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve General Warrant #1070 for \$67,641.04. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to award various road materials bids as recommended by the Highway Superintendent. (see attached) So voted.

B. Mr. Caldwell read a memo from the Town Clerk regarding the September 16th Special Town Election to elect a new selectman. The last day to submit nomination papers is July 29th.

C. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint Steve Cummings to the Zoning Board of Appeals. So voted.

D. Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the Playground Committee announcing their annual golf tournament to be held on August 9th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Building Committee co-chair Eric Hevy was present to let the selectmen know that the committee is close to finalizing the contract with the architectural firm Tecton. Mr. Hevy will bring in the contract for the selectmen to review as soon as possible.

Mr. Hevy wanted to know if the committee wanted to hire their own LSP, would they have to go out to bid? Mr. Caldwell stated that it would definitely have to be bid.

B. Mrs. Walter read a memo from the Town Collector asking for a transfer of \$234.27 from the Computer Billing Account to the Clerk Salary Account for FY08. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Department of Conservation and Recreation regarding the Heritage Landscape Inventory program. There will be a meeting in Hardwick on July 24th for everyone involved.

D. Mrs. Walter noted that some North Brookfield residents have recently brought to her attention a newspaper article about the town of Dudley discontinuing town services to private roads. In these difficult fiscal times, perhaps this is something that North Brookfield needs to explore.

Steve Cummings stated that to his knowledge, North Brookfield has not done any substantial work on private roads, only plowing and occasionally fixing a washout. He thinks that things are fine the way they are; the residents of these private roads are taxpayers who deserve town services.

Mr. Caldwell stated that past practice has been to repair the roads enough to allow for emergency access. Mrs. Walter stated that she feels it would be beneficial to know how much it costs the town to maintain these roads.

Mrs. Walter stated that she would like to see the issue taken under advisement to ascertain if the proper town meeting votes were taken, and to do a “workshop” session in the fall with the Highway Department, the Lake Lashaway Association, the Conservation Commission and the affected residents.

E. Mrs. Walter noted that again, several residents have brought a problem to the selectmen’s attention. Many residents have complained of dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs. The selectmen are asking dog owners to be conscientious about picking up after their dogs, and be respectful of their neighbors.

Steve Cummings wondered if the Board was proposing a by-law?

Mrs. Walter said not yet, we hope that the threat of a fine will encourage dog owners to clean up. The town does have a nuisance by-law in place, with fines incurred for violation.

Mr. Caldwell noted that he is particularly disgusted by people who let their dogs loose in the town's cemeteries.

F. Mrs. Walter noted that there is approximately 17 acres of land for sale that abuts the town forest on West Brookfield Road. She would like to see if the town could purchase it, but she and Mr. Caldwell agreed that financing the purchase will be an issue.

Steve Cummings suggested that if the town's forests were managed, the town could use that income to purchase land. It was agreed that first the town needs to speak with the seller to determine the asking price.

At 7:25 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to go off-camera to sign bills. So voted.

After signing the bi-weekly bills and payrolls, at 8:15 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant