

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2008

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

I. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2008 as written. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1015 for \$86,429.61. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1016 for \$91,345.06. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #8 for \$302,844.19. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle announced that the selectmen will be hosting an open house at the new town offices on Saturday, October 25th.

B. Mr. Foyle also announced that there will be a Special Town Meeting on Friday, November 21st.

C. Mrs. Walter reported that the Town House Building Committee has changed its name to the Town House Renovation Committee. They met last week and finalized a survey to be sent to residents with the annual census in January. The survey asks what people want to be done with the building, and if they would be willing to pay for its renovation.

D. Mr. Foyle stated that last week the selectmen, with a recommendation from the Finance Committee, instituted a spending moratorium on all discretionary spending. The selectmen will send out a letter this week that further clarifies discretionary, which Mr. Foyle noted is "nice to have" vs. "need to have."

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from Jason Nagle asking for permission to use the old town hall on Saturday, October 25th for the Arts and Music Festival. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to grant permission, with the requirements that an adult be present at all times, and that Mr. Nagle provide proof of insurance. So voted.

B. There was no one present with the Fire Department report.

C. Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Joe Holway announcing the Fire Department's Open House at their new training center on Saturday, October 25th.

E. Water Superintendent Steve Jones and Water Commissioner Tim Nason were present to speak with the selectmen. Mr. Jones noted that the Water Department has been under a DEP Consent Order to install a fence around the Water Tank. The department advertised for, received, and opened 10 bids, and are recommending the low bidder, New Quality Fence of Westford, MA for a price of \$13,000. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to award the bid for the water tank fencing to New Quality Fence of Westford, MA for a price of \$13,000. So voted.

F. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Senior Center Director Louise Bouchard that outlines the steps she and her staff have taken to ensure that North Brookfield seniors receive any assistance they may need this winter with fuel costs or food.

G. Mr. Foyle read an announcement from the North Brookfield Historical Society that Bob Potvin will deliver a program on "Baseball in Connie Mack's Brookfields" on October 22nd at 7 PM.

H. Mrs. Walter read an announcement that the Playground Committee will be hosting a movie night on the town common on Saturday, October 25th at 6:30 PM.

D. Library Director Ann Kidd was present with several sealed bids received for surplus library equipment. The selectmen opened the various bids:

- Item #13, a desk, was sold for \$40.
- Item #25, a bookshelf, received 2 bids, and was sold for \$20.
- Item #26, a bookshelf, received 2 bids, and was sold for \$20.
- Item #28, a book shelf, was sold for \$15.
- Items #30, 31, and 32 which are very large wooden bookshelves, received bids of \$5 each, which were rejected by the selectmen as too low.
- Item #37, a bookshelf, was sold for \$15.
- Item #39, a safe, received 2 bids, and was sold for \$330.
- Item #40, a bookshelf, was sold for \$15.

I. Mr. Foyle announced that there will be a meeting of the town's financial personnel on October 23rd, hopefully at the school. This meeting will address the town's anticipated deficit, and how to resolve the problem.

Mr. Foyle noted that the Highway Department is going to ask for everyone's cooperation when it comes to the cleanup of leaves that people usually rake into the streets. Residents will be asked to pick up their own leaves, and clear any leaves away from the storm drains near their homes. Mrs. Walter noted that the

Finance Committee recommends that non-essential services such as this be performed only as time allows.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to go off-camera to sign bills. So voted.

The selectmen signed the bi-weekly bills and payrolls, and discussed the guidelines to be sent out to town officials that will define “discretionary spending.” It was also agreed to request a projection of November expenses by October 30th, and a projection of December expenses by the 5th working day of November.

At 9:20 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant