

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 28, 2008

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

I. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to defer action on the approval of the minutes of October 14th and 21st until the next meeting. So voted.

IA. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve schoolwarrant #1017 in the amount of \$85,783.91. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1018, with the exception of voucher #18840 for \$180.17, in the amended amount of \$279,322.16. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #9 for \$293,762.32. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Eric Hevy, co-chair of the Police Building Committee, was present with Jeff McGilvary of Tecton Architects and Neil Thurber of Metcalf and Eddy, to update the selectmen on the progress of that project. Mr. McGilvary showed interior and exterior drawings of the 8,000 square foot wood frame building.

Mr. McGilvary reviewed the cost estimates for the entire project. While the first estimates came in high, he feels that the project is currently in line with the \$3.1 million that has been appropriated.

Mr. Thurber reviewed his projections of how much of the project costs might be eligible to be covered by the two EPA grants secured by the town. He estimates as much as \$300,000 could be used toward the remediation of the 1.1 acre police station site.

Mr. Hevy noted that he will be back in a few weeks for the selectmen's approval to use the EPA grant funds.

B. Dave Harris of the North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee came in with two updates for the selectmen. First, he announced that the town is in the process of applying for a third \$200,000 EPA Cleanup Grant, this one for the 14 South Common Street portion of the site. A draft of the application is available on the town's website, at the selectmen's office, or by requesting a copy from selectmen@northbrookfield.net. There will be a public hearing on the grant application on November 10th at the selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Harris also informed the selectmen that he has heard from the Quabuag Corporation regarding their potential interest in the NBDD site. Quabuag has stated that they are interested in leasing the remainder of the property that will not be occupied by the police station. Given the current economic climate they are not willing to commit to building a warehouse as they previously indicated, but would use a portion of the site for parking, and keep the rest of the site for future use. They would like to meet with the selectmen to discuss things further.

C. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant for the November 21st Special Town Meeting. So voted.

D. Mrs. Walter stated that the selectmen will pass over this item to appoint a task force to investigate the future of the North Brookfield schools for a few weeks in order to give the school committee more time for input.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis read a note from Elaine Sullivan Lane resigning from the Council on Aging. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the resignation and send a letter of thanks. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Julie McCarthy asking to be appointed to the Town House Restoration Committee. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint Ms. McCarthy. So voted. Mrs. Walter noted that a survey will be going out with this year's annual census that will ask residents what they want to do with the town house.

C. Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail from Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel asking that the selectmen vote to authorize the Highway Department to put the NBEMS on their monthly fuel report, retroactive to July 1st. This will allow Mrs. Nykiel to make a line item transfer from the ambulance expense account back into the highway gasoline and diesel account. Mr. Petraitis so moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded. So voted.

D. Mrs. Walter reviewed the police report for the month of September as submitted by Chief Thomasian. It showed 38 incidents and 13 arrest or summons for the month. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the report and place a copy on file. So voted.

E. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Police Sergeant Douglas Blood notifying the selectmen of his intention to retire on October 15, 2009. Sergeant Blood asks for payment of 90 sick days at that time, as is the town's policy. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the notification. So voted. Mrs. Walter told Sergeant Blood that he has been a valued member of the police force, and there will be a large hole to fill when he leaves.

F. Mrs. Walter stated that the selectmen would be taking the proposal to implement a reverse 911 system under advisement for further discussion when Mr. Foyle is back. Eric Hevy noted that he now works for the sheriff's department, and will be the person responsible for implementing the reverse 911 system in North Brookfield, and for training the town's personnel. The system is free until 2010, and the program will be reassessed at that time, and the town will have a chance to reconsider.

G. Mrs. Walter announced that per the Chief of Police, Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, October 31st from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

H. and I. Highway Superintendent Gary Jean came in to talk to the selectmen about a new state law regarding trench safety. As of January 1, 2009 the town will be required to monitor all trenches on both public and private property. The law is designed to prevent injuries to the general public from falling into unattended trenches. The town must appoint a person to issue permits to all excavators prior to creating a trench. The town will be allowed to charge a reasonable fee for administrative costs.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to name the Highway Superintendent as the permitting authority for trench safety in North Brookfield. So voted.

Mr. Jean will work on drafting a permit and fee schedule. The permit will incorporate the current road opening permit, as it is essentially the same thing.

The selectmen signed the bi-weekly bills and payrolls.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant