

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

Mrs. Walter welcomed new member Jason Petraitis, and congratulated him on winning last week's special election.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to temporarily suspend the agenda in order to speak with visitors James Laird Sr. and James Laird Jr., and to hear an update from Eric Hevy on the progress of the Police Building project. So voted.

Mr. Laird Senior stated that a contractor working on a new house being built on Bell Road dug a trench that is filled with water and the overflow from the trench is draining across Bell Road onto Mr. Laird Junior's property. The Lairds are concerned that with more homes still to be built there will be more water on their land. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Lairds will put their concerns in writing so that the selectmen may research the problem and then get back to the Lairds.

Eric Hevy, co-chair of the Police Building Committee, came in to update the selectmen on the status of that project. Mr. Hevy noted that the architect has prepared a timeline that shows construction beginning in March of 2009, and taking approximately 12 months to complete.

Mr. Hevy reported that the architect has finalized conceptual drawings of the buildings, and these drawings will be sent out for project estimates. The committee plans to hire a surveyor to lay out the location, and Mr. Hevy expects that Metcalf and Eddy will outline to the Police Building committee what grant funds are available to do additional soil borings.

The selectmen thanked Mr. Hevy for coming, and asked that he continue to keep them informed of the status of the project.

I. It was agreed to table the approval of the minutes of September 16th to next week, as neither Mr. Foyle nor Mr. Petraitis were present at that meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis and Mrs. Walter reviewed a proposed budget policy for the FY10 budget process. The draft policy was acceptable as written. The policy will be placed on next week's agenda for additional discussion and formal approval.

B. This item regarding a budget freeze will be deferred to the September 30th meeting as well, pending a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

C. The update on the Police Building Committee was already done by Mr. Hevy.

D. On the topic of the Local Public Access Channel, Mrs. Walter stated that the taped selectmen's meetings are currently run three times per day. The selectmen have not had a taped meeting since August 19th, because the camera operator did not come on September 2nd, and the September 16th meeting was rescheduled due to the state primary. Mrs. Walter would like to have all of the selectmen's meeting taped, not just every other week as is currently being done.

A request by the selectmen for minutes and an inventory from LPAC has yet to be addressed. Mrs. Walter will try to contact either Mr. Tillotson or Mr. Caputo, co-chairs of the LPAC group.

E. There was no update from the NBDDC. (There was an email update on from NBDDC the report was "nothing to report".

F. Mrs. Walter and Mr. Petraitis reviewed the selectmen's meeting schedule for the next few months, and decided on dates for several pending old items. It was agreed to schedule a public hearing on the plowing of private roads for November 18th. All North Brookfield property owners that have homes on private roads will receive notification of the hearing.

On October 28th the Board will meet with Highway Superintendent Gary Jean regarding the new Trench Safety Regulations, and proposed road opening permits.

A Hiring and Termination Policy proposed by Town Counsel will be placed on the September 30th for discussion.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. The MMA has sent out an advisory re: police details that was informative.

B. Mrs. Walter would like to define the identities of the Town House Committee vs. the Town House Building Committee. According to the town's by-laws, "the Selectmen shall constitute the Town House Committee." The Town House Building Committee is for a building plan or project, appointed and overseen by the Board of Selectmen. The selectmen would not automatically be members of the Town House Building Committee.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant