

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 27, 2009

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

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2009 as written. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle read a memo from the Capital Improvement Planning Committee asking for clarification on the expectations for funding recommendations. Mr. Foyle noted that it is his belief that the CIP committee is strictly advisory to the selectmen. Their job is to rank projects, not to decide how to fund projects. Mrs. Walter and Mr. Petraitis concurred with this assessment.

B. Mr. Foyle explained that the Highway Superintendent currently does not receive overtime pay, while other similar positions in town do. The selectmen would like to try to rectify this situation, but given the current budget climate, Mr. Foyle stated that he would like to table this topic for future discussion when the current budget situation is clearer.

C. Mr. Foyle presented a report done by the Town Government Study Committee that recommends that the town consider hiring a town administrator. Mr. Foyle noted that this recommendation coincides with the recommendations of the Department of Revenue in its Financial Management Review, and the Master Plan Committee in its report. The selectmen discussed the creation of a committee to further study the issue and make recommendations on how to implement the changes. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign a five year renewal for free dispatching services from the state police. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign a Common Victualer's license for Lou's Diner at 175 Main Street. This is a name change from the North Brookfield News. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from the Town Collector's office announcing that residents can now pay their taxes online or by credit card.

D. Mr. Foyle reviewed a letter to the Police Building Committee regarding a comment in their December minutes that indicates that the project could be \$150,000 over budget. It was agreed to send the letter that asks the committee to be fiscally prudent with the taxpayers' money.

E. Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Water Commissioners to Sergeant Doug Blood thanking him for his assistance in contacting National Grid to have power restored to the treatment plant in the days after the December ice storm.

F. Mr. Petraitis reminded residents that the Friends of the North Brookfield Playground Scholarship Fund will be hosting a Valentine's Spaghetti Supper and Dance on February 7th. Tickets are \$8.

G. Mrs. Walter read an announcement from Hearts for Heat, who will be sponsoring a spaghetti supper on January 31st at the Masonic Lodge. Tickets are \$7.

H. There was only one anticipated spending report, from the Town Beach Committee. They are requesting \$200 to buy supplies and food in order to sell refreshments at the three upcoming fishing derbies on Lake Lashaway. The money will come from the gift fund, and any profits will be returned to the gift fund. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the spending. So voted.

I. Police Chief Thomasian came in to discuss a recent letter from Sergeant Ryan Daley asking for supplies to hold a Taser training class for the other full-time officers. The department has one Taser, and the chief noted that if the officers are going to working alone more frequently in the future, it will be needed to assist the officers when necessary.

On the condition of the department's cruisers, the Chief noted that he has spent approximately \$10,000 on repairs this year because the town did not purchase a new cruiser. Two of the cruisers have over 100,000 miles on them. The selectmen questioned the wisdom of having the Chief drive the cruiser with only 82,000 miles on it, and having the cruiser with 109,000 miles as the duty cruiser. The Chief explained that he is trying to keep the mileage as low as possible on the newer cruiser, and that the older cruiser has already had so many repairs that it is actually in better shape than the new one.

The Chief also noted that he is low on part-time staffing, and he would like to hire at least 2 or 3 additional part-timers. In 1996 the Chief had 19 officers, and now he has only 14.

At 8:10 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss collective bargaining strategy. Roll call:

Foyle, yes; Walter, yes; Petraitis, yes. So voted. Mr. Foyle announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 9 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to exit executive session. Roll call: Foyle, yes; Walter, yes; Petraitis, yes. So voted.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mrs. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant