

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 9, 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 March 31, 2009, both regular and executive session, as written. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle announced that the last day to register to vote at the May 4th Annual Town Election, and the May 8th Annual Town Meeting, will be Tuesday, April 14th from 9 AM to 8 PM in the Town Clerk's office.

B. Mrs. Walter read an announcement regarding the annual rabies clinic to be held at the fire station on Saturday, April 11th from 9 AM until 11 AM.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed information regarding a boating safety class to be given at the North Brookfield High School on Saturday April 25th and Saturday May 2nd. The class is sponsored by the North Brookfield Police and the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

D. Mr. Foyle announced that the annual town-wide cleanup day, sponsored by North Brookfield Decorates, will be held on Saturday, April 25th. There will also be plant swap, and collection of American flags that need to be destroyed.

E. Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail regarding the town-wide yard sale sponsored by the Friends of the Haston Library, to be held on Saturday, May 16th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Kim Dodge came before the selectmen requesting a Common Victualler's license for "Fenders Café and Auto Detailing," to be located at 326 North Main Street. Ms. Walter asked about combining the chemicals used for auto detailing with food and beverage service; Ms. Dodge replied that they are two separate rooms, and she does not believe that there will be a problem. Mr. Foyle stated that before the selectmen approve this license, Ms. Dodge should contact the building inspector and the planning board for their approval.

B. Mrs. Walter reported that last year the Planning Board received a Technical Assistance Grant through CMRPC to help implement the overlay district. This year the Master Plan Implementation Committee has applied for and received a grant to assist in the development of a wetlands protection bylaw. Kopelman and Paige will present a seminar on this topic on April 30th.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed the March police report as submitted by Chief Thomasian. The chief reported 41 incidents, 22 arrest or summons, and 3 accidents for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report and place a copy on file. So voted.

D. A letter from Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel was referred to the sewer and water departments asking them to confer with Mrs. Nykiel and get back to the selectmen with a plan of attack.

E. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Thomas Severance of the New Braintree Grange inviting the selectmen to an awards presentation on April 22nd. The Grange will be presenting their Community Citizen Award to the North Brookfield Fire Department for the new training facility. Mr. Foyle noted that the selectmen should attend if they are able.

F. Mrs. Walter read a public hearing notice from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the April 22nd hearing on the application of William Peluso to change 7 Hillside Avenue from a 2 family home to a single family home with an accessory apartment.

G. The selectmen noted that last week they voted to institute a wage freeze for all non-union personnel for FY2010. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to send a letter to the school department, the water department, and the sewer department asking for their cooperation in the wage freeze. So voted.

The selectmen reviewed anticipated spending reports from the water department, the treasurer, the sewer department, and the assessors. All were found to be necessary spending, all departments have the money in their budgets to fund these expenses, and all were approved.

H. The selectmen reviewed articles for the May 8th Annual Town Meeting. There were some minor changes in wording, but all were approved for inclusion on the warrant. The warrant will be signed on April 16th.

Mr. Foyle announced that work has begun on the North Brookfield Downtown Development site in preparation for the new police station and the potential lease to Quabaug Corporation.

Mr. Foyle also noted that the town's annual audit has revealed the sound financial structure of the collector, treasurer, and accountant. The report found "no deficiencies on internal controls," which is very good news.

The selectmen discussed a letter received from the Board of Health requesting implementation of a sick leave bank. Mrs. Walter reported that she has spoken with Treasurer Anne Jannette about this, and she and Mrs. Jannette will try to work on a formal policy for the town. In the meantime, the selectmen will send a letter to the Board of Health stating that they can request voluntary donations of sick time until a formal policy is in place.

At 8:50 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant