

Minute clarification from Mary Walter

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 26, 2009

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7:05 PM with Mrs. Walter also present. Mr. Filipkowski joined the meeting at 7:15.

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2009 as amended. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1054 for \$2,209.01. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1054 for \$97,836.97. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1056 for \$223,985.94. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #24 for \$286,997.44. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Board of Selectmen signed a one-day liquor license for Statz Sports Pub and Grill to serve alcohol in a tent located in the parking lot of 341 North Main Street. The Lions Club is holding a fundraiser on June 6th from 3 PM to 10 PM, and the tent is needed for any overflow from the restaurant. This special license was approved by the selectmen at their May 19th meeting.

B. Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be a public forum on the FY2010 budget on June 4th at 7 PM in the elementary school. The Selectmen and Finance Committee will answer questions regarding the FY2009 budget, and present the plan for next year's budget.

C. Mrs. Walter presented a letter and a detailed spreadsheet identifying all Town funded streetlights and the recommendations for changes and deactivation. Mrs. Walter met with Tom Smith of National Grid beginning in January and discussed ways that the town could save money on street lighting while at the same time improving public safety by the quality and quantity of lighting. Mr. Smith recommended changing the type of lighting used in different parts of town. In March the Police Chief sent a letter to the Board with recommendations for turning off streetlights in the Town center, while maintaining public safety. The recommendation was reviewed and the Chief was asked to provide the pole numbers for the lights that would be shut off. In April the recommendation was resubmitted to the Board with the pole numbers and this information was added to the study. In the end, Mrs.

Walter recommended a three-part approach in which the Town would first change the lamps to more efficient and cost effective types of bulbs, then in phase 2 the Town would eliminate some unnecessary street lights, and lastly the town could consider a change energy suppliers. A representative from Hampshire Power submitted a proposal to the selectmen in February where he indicated that the town could save approximately \$2,000 per year by buying their power through Hampshire instead of National Grid.

Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to Implement phase I of the program and ask National Grid to begin replacing all of the incandescent and mercury vapor lamps with high-pressure sodium lamps. So voted.

D. The selectmen reviewed 10 articles for the June 19th Special Town Meeting. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the articles. So voted.

E. Mr. Filipkowski stated that as he began drafting a memo to town departments about making sure that any fees charged were in line with other area towns, he read a booklet from the Department of Revenue regarding ways to cost out municipal services. Mr. Filipkowski noted that he believes that the town could do more than keep fees comparable to other towns; he believes that departments should analyze the actual cost of providing those services, and set fees accordingly. Mr. Filipkowski would like to draft a letter to town departments asking for a two-pronged review of fees, first to examine current fees to be sure we are in line with other towns, and secondly to send out the DOR booklet and ask the departments to consider that information as well. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to send out a letter to town departments initiating the first part. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Eric Hevy, co-chairman of the Police Building Committee, was present with four copies of the contract between the town and P & P Construction of Webster, the low bidder on the General Contractor bids. The selectmen have previously voted to award the bid to P & P. Mr. Hevy reported that town counsel has already approved the contract language. The selectmen signed the contracts, which will go to the town accountant for her signature, and then to town counsel for his signature.

Mr. Hevy asked how the selectmen wanted to issue the "Notice to Proceed," do they want to do it, or have the project manager issue it? Mr. Hevy reported that the anticipated start date is June 8th, with a ground-breaking

ceremony scheduled for June 5th at 10 AM. The selectmen indicated that they will be the ones issuing the notice to proceed.

B. Ms. Weilsma from the North Brookfield Emergency Squad was not present.

C. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement regarding a road race sponsored by the North Brookfield Youth Center that will be held on June 13th at 10 AM. The registration is \$20, or \$10 for children.

D. Mr. Petraitis noted that last week the selectmen had voted to promote a "harvest festival" in September or October. Anyone who wants to volunteer, or anyone who has other ideas, should contact the selectmen.

E. Mr. Petraitis noted that typically the selectmen have observed a summer schedule after the annual town meeting, in which the board only meets on warrant weeks. Mr. Petraitis suggested that one member of the selectmen hold office hours in the selectmen's office on the "off" weeks from 7 PM to 8 PM. Mrs. Walter and Mr. Filipkowski liked the idea, and as Mrs. Walter noted, perhaps people who don't feel comfortable speaking on camera would feel more comfortable talking to a board member one-on-one.

F. The selectmen discussed ideas for next week's agenda, including a notice to proceed for the police building project, signing the June 19th Special Town Meeting warrant, and acknowledgements for Jim Foyle and Sue Lewandowski.

Michelle Zuidema of 8 Willow Street came in to speak to the selectmen about an on-going drainage problem at her home. For the past two years her basement has been flooding. She has spoken to the highway department and the selectmen, and nothing has been resolved. The selectmen asked Ms. Zuidema to give them a week to look into the situation, and to come back next week.

G. At 8:15 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 9 PM the Board came out of executive session. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant