

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JUNE 23, 2009

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

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, motions to approve the June 9th meeting and executive session, and the June 16th meeting and executive session, as amended. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1059 for \$129,084.62. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve general warrant #1060 for \$89,905.74. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #26 for \$574,379.23. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis read the list of highway road materials bid recommendations (see attached) prepared by Highway Superintendent Gary Jean. Mr. Jean noted that with the award to F. T. Smith for winter sand, if the quality does not meet the specifications of Mass Highways during the course of the fiscal year, the bid will go to the next lowest bidder, which was Bond Construction. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to award the bids as read, including the notation on the winter sand. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to award the FY2010 gasoline and diesel bid to Dennis K. Burke Company of Chelsea, MA for a price markup of .0472 per gallon. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to table the resolution consenting to the reorganization of Charter Communications until July 7th. So voted.

D. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed correspondence from Mike Tillotson, co-chairman of LPAC, requesting approval to implement stipends to pay camera operators and people who work at the studio. Mr. Filipkowski noted that these are not town funds, and that Charter Communications has stated that this is an appropriate use of the gift funds. Mrs. Walter asked camera operator and LPAC member Paul Leblanc about the pay difference for filming a selectmen's meeting vs. a school committee meeting; the suggested stipend is \$20 for a selectmen's meeting, and \$30 for a school committee meeting. Mr. Leblanc stated that the school committee meetings are generally longer, hence the higher stipend. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the proposed LPAC budget and stipend schedule. So voted.

E. Mr. Petraitis noted that he sent an e-mail to various department heads requesting for their feedback on the implementation of purchase orders. Mr. Filipkowski noted that he has spoken with Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel, and her software program will be able to support this. Mrs. Walter stated that this proposed purchase order system is intended to be helpful to town employees, not obstructive. Mr. Filipkowski asked exactly how would the selectmen implement and monitor this system? Mr. Petraitis noted that some department heads had suggested that purchase orders be required only for purchases above a certain dollar amount. It was agreed that more input from town employees is needed on this, and this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

F. F. Treasurer Anne Jannette has asked that the selectmen send out a memo to all town departments reminding everyone that employee benefits such as sick leave or vacation time should be calculated according to the employee handbook and pro-rated based on the average number of hours worked per week. Mrs. Jannette provided a draft of the memo. Mrs. Walter stated that the wording of the employee handbook should be included in the memo. She will work on the wording of the memo to make sure that it coincides with the wording in the employee handbook.

G. A request for appointment to the Finance Committee by Eric Hevy was reviewed by Mr. Petraitis. Mrs. Walter stated that she had reservations about appointing Mr. Hevy. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he has worked with Mr. Hevy on the police building committee and that he really digs in and works hard when he is given something to do. Mrs. Walter asked if Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Filipkowski would support the appointment of Mr. Hevy in spite of information that they had received prior to the meeting. Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Filipkowski stated that they did support Mr. Hevy's appointment. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Hevy to the Finance Committee. So voted, with Mrs. Walter voting "no."

A request from David Maher for appointment to the Conservation Commission was discussed. Mrs. Walter spoke with Conservation Commission Chairman Carl Gustafson, who suggested that Mr. Maher attend the next commission meeting on July 14th before a decision is made. Leslie will send Mr. Maher a letter.

H. Mr. Petraitis explained that beginning next Tuesday the selectmen will observe a summer schedule. The selectmen will meet every other week for a regular meeting, and on the "off" weeks one member of the Board will be available at the Senior Center to meet with residents from 7 PM – 8 PM.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Charles Lindgren sent an e-mail requesting to be appointed to the Finance Committee as an alternate. Mr. Lindgren currently chairs the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, and noted that serving as an alternate on the Finance Committee should improve communications between the two groups. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Lindgren as an alternate on the Finance Committee. So voted.

B. Ray Hebert, who compiled results of the Town House survey along with Ellen Smith and Julie McCarthy, presented the selectmen with the final results of the survey. The results show that residents are in favor of restoring the town hall in phases, and are not in favor of tearing it down or building a new town hall. Mr. Hebert will send his presentation to the webmaster so that it can be put on the town's website for everyone to view. The selectmen thanked Mr. Hebert, Mrs. Smith, and Ms. McCarthy for their efforts.

C. Mrs. Walter and Mr. Filipkowski reviewed two requests to transfer funds within the police department budget. One was to transfer \$500 from police salary to the police chief's salary for the chief's longevity pay, and the other was for \$550 from the part-time salary to the overtime account. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the transfers. So voted.

The selectmen approved and signed an anticipated spending request from the Assessors for \$75 to reimburse a member for gas and tolls to a conference.

The selectmen approved and signed a request from the Town Accountant to transfer funds from the \$85,217.58 FEMA ice storm reimbursement to various accounts.

D. The selectmen read the attached list of annual appointments. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the appointments. So voted.

Brandon Avery spoke to the selectmen about the 350th Quaboag Plantation Anniversary, and said that it would be helpful to have one selectman designated as a point of contact. Mr. Avery and the selectmen also discussed a reenactment of a historic baseball game to be played next summer between North and West Brookfield.

Mrs. Walter stated that she would like to see the selectmen create some goals and objectives for the upcoming year. This will be put on an agenda for the future.

At 8:20 PM, there being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant