

## MINUTE CLARIFICATION - MFW

### MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AUGUST 4, 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, a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2009 as amended. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1003 for \$52,514.80, general warrant #1004 for \$240,989.84, and payroll warrant #3 for \$192,449.74. So voted.

#### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Pamela Farley was present in regards to her request for appointment to the School Committee. Mrs. Farley stated that she has considered serving on the committee for a while, and right now the ages of her children will allow her the time needed to fulfill this obligation. **Mrs. Walter stated that the Selectmen are very pleased to have her supporting them in this very important job, and noted that it is difficult to step into the it midway through the term. Mr. Filipkowski reiterated that the selectmen appreciate Mrs. Farley stepping forward.** Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Pamela Farley to the School Committee until the May 2010 election. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Water Department that was sent in response to a request from the selectmen asking to see a sample anticipated spending report being used by the water department, and that the water commissioners consider a duplication of the reports requested by the selectmen and finance committee. The Board of Water Commissioners replied that there is no actual report, only that water department employees track expenditures, and that bills and warrants are reviewed by the Water Commissioners, and that any purchase over \$1,000 is pre-approved by the Water Commissioners. Mrs. Walter noted that the selectmen do not **intend** to usurp the authority of any elected officials. Mr. Petraitis also noted that the Water Commissioners have requested a waiver to the current hiring freeze under the selectmen's "new business." Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to defer action on both items until the Water Commissioners can attend a meeting with the selectmen. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from resident Louise Ojerholm asking about a "Senior Work Program" in which senior citizens would perform work for

the town in exchange for a reduction in their property taxes. Mr. Filipkowski reported that this topic came up at a regional meeting that he had attended, and that the speaker stated that this program really requires thorough investigation to make sure it is a good fit for each town. Mr. Petraitis stated that he wondered about liability issues with people working for the town. It was agreed to get back to Mrs. Ojerholm stating that the selectmen will take this under advisement in order to do more research.

D. Mrs. Walter presented a letter to Police Chief Thomasian asking for some information on the projected costs to operate and maintain the new police facility, which is expected to be completed by May of 2010. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the letter. So voted and signed.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a letter from the Massachusetts State Police regarding emergency dispatching services provided to the town by the state police. A Memorandum of Understanding was previously approved by the selectmen in March, but the state has revised it to include a new paragraph stating that in the event the state police are faced with budget reductions or other unforeseen circumstances, they may limit their services to the dispatching of police, fire, EMS, and any related emergency services. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the MOU. So voted and signed.

B. A letter from the Water Department requesting a waiver to the hiring freeze was tabled until the selectmen and water commissioners can meet and discuss it.

C. Paul Lapointe and Gus Aslanian came to speak to the selectmen about a concert they hope to host on the town common on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for their band and four other bands. They told the selectmen that they have already spoken to the police chief and to Tabby Leblanc of the Playground Committee. The two hope to raise money to support the high school music program. The selectmen expressed some reservations about the lack of adult supervision, given that the boys are only 16 and 17. It was agreed that the selectmen will get back to the young men via e-mail with a decision.

D. A letter from Police Chief Thomasian requesting additional part-time personnel was deferred to the upcoming executive session.

E. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from CMRPC requesting that the selectmen appoint an alternate member to the commission. Mrs. Walter stated that she has been the alternate, and would be willing to serve again if no one

steps forward. The selectmen asked that any interested resident contact the selectmen.

F. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from Tim Hansen of CMRPC regarding a meeting to consider how Community Development Block Grant funds could be used to benefit North Brookfield. The meeting will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the selectmen's office.

G. Mr. Petraitis announced that the selectmen will be hosting a seminar on the plowing and maintenance of private roads to be given by Town Counsel Brian Riley on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The meeting will be held in the Senior Center.

H. Mr. Petraitis signed the final close-out documents for the Housing Development Support Program grant that was used to fund the renovation of the Duncan Building.

I. Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the Planning Board regarding a public hearing to be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM on the application of Kim Dodge for a special permit to operate an auto detailing business at 326 North Main Street.

J. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed two hearing notices from the Zoning Board of Appeals; one for a hearing on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM on the application of Mary Waytina for a variance to the set back requirement at 2 Hillsville Road, and one to be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM on the application of Gene Varney for a variance to front, side, and rear setback requirements at 81 Shore Road.

K. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from the Town Clerk that dog licenses are overdue, and an additional \$25 fee will be added after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept three anticipated spending/encumbrance reports, one from the police department, and two from the selectmen's office.

At 7:40 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and to conduct a collective bargaining session. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 8:35 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to exit executive session. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted.

At 8:37 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant