

## MINUTES CLARIFICATION - MFW

### MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AUGUST 18, 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 August 4, 2009 as amended. So voted.
- IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1005 for \$130,777.51, general warrant #1006 for \$474,326.30, and payroll warrant #4 for \$185,250.13. **So voted with one abstention.**
- II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Water Superintendent Stephen Jones and Water Commissioners Timothy Nason and James Kularski were present to discuss two recent letters from the commissioners to the selectmen.

Mr. Kularski explained the water department request for a waiver to the town's hiring freeze. When one of the two plant operators became ill in June, Superintendent Jones had to work for 31 days straight, unable to venture too far away. According to Mr. Kularski, DEP had recommended the hiring of a third operator in their 2006 report. The water commissioners have discussed this several times, but continually put the idea on a back burner out of budgetary concerns. They would like to begin the process now in order to hire someone for FY2011.

**Mrs. Walter asked that the water department provide more information regarding the actual costs of salary and benefits for this new employee. She also asked for a copy of the DEP report for 2006 and the record of incidents that occurred during the 31-day period in July when the second operator was out sick. Mr. Kularski noted that the current costs for seasonal help and overtime would offset some of the cost of a new hire. The remaining costs would be raised by increasing the water rates.**

**The selectmen agreed that the water department could go forward with their fact-finding, and continue to gather information that will be presented to the selectmen and with the Selectmen's recommendation to voters at a town meeting. Mr. Petraitis noted that it is ultimately the voters who will**

make the decision. Mrs. Walter stated that this action by the Board was not intended to imply that we are going to start hiring people.

The Water Commissioners offered a tour of the water plant in order for the selectmen to become more familiar with its operation. Mr. Jones will submit a list of potential dates.

On the subject of anticipated spending reports, the water commissioners have previously told the selectmen that they feel this is a duplication of effort on the part of Mr. Jones and Administrative Assistant Shiela Leblanc. Mr. Jones passed out copies of the FY10 budget that was prepared by himself and Mrs. Leblanc, which breaks out the budget into more line items than the Department budget submitted to the Town. Mr. Jones also gave out copies of a monthly budget report that details exactly how much money has been expended from each water department line item, and how much money is left in each line item.

Mr. Petraitis stated that in his opinion the reports prepared by the water department were more than sufficient. Mr. Filipkowski and Mrs. Walter agreed, and the water department will be submitting their monthly budget report instead of the anticipated spending reports from now on.

B. Mrs. Walter provided an update on the regional selectmen's meeting that she attended last week. She reported that there is an upcoming presentation on the Open Meeting Law in Brookfield in October that will be open to anyone. A presentation was given by the Tree Warden from Warren who is a certified forester. He offered ideas on tree management and forestry programs that could be shared by the Towns. A proposal was made by West Brookfield for the creation of a Council of Governments, which included the formation of a task force to study the feasibility of a Quaboag Council of Governments. The next meeting will be in September in North Brookfield.

C. Mr. Filipkowski read a letter from CMRPC asking that the selectmen appoint an alternate to serve on the commission. Mrs. Walter is currently serving as alternate, and she is willing to continue if no one steps forward. Mr. Filipkowski stated that any interested resident should contact the selectmen.

D. Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the town clerk that dog licenses are now overdue, and an additional \$25 fee will be added after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve a request by Stars and Stripes, Inc. to change their manager to Jon Eccleston. So voted. Mr. Eccleston was present at the meeting. The paperwork will now go to the ABCC for final approval.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Ann Hicks on behalf of the committee working on a wetlands by-law. Mrs. Hicks asked for permission to contact Town Counsel, and in another e-mail asked if the town could accept a donation from the Friends of the Five Mile River to pay for some of the legal bills related to the wetlands by-law. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the request to contact Kopelman and Paige. So voted. It was also noted that the selectmen are able to accept any donations on behalf of the town.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed the July police report as submitted by Chief Thomasian. The chief reported 47 incidents and 29 arrests or summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

D. Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail from the Board of Health inviting the selectmen to attend a BOH meeting to discuss the Emergency Dispensing Site plans. The selectmen agreed that they would like to attend the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BOH.

E. A letter from the Renewable Energy Trust will be reviewed by the selectmen at a later date. This was a program where town residents could pay a small surcharge with their electric bills that went into a fund to benefit clean energy projects in their own town. The program has now ended, and the Town of North Brookfield has \$4,272.99 in funds to expend on such items as science books or textbooks for the classroom, or solar powered equipment. The contract needs to be signed by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

F. Mr. Filipkowski read a notice from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding a hearing on September 9<sup>th</sup> for the application of Elisabeth and Ethan Melad for a special permit to construct a common driveway at 17 Ashley Road.

G. Under items for future agendas, some topics suggested were:

- Emergency disaster plans
- Possible regional Council of Governments
- Follow-up on the town's turnover policy
- Follow-up on encumbrance reports
- Update from Educational Task Force
- Change in televised meeting schedule

There being no further business, at 8:15 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant