

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 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 18, 2009 as amended. So voted.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the executive session minutes of August 4, 2009 as written. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1007 for \$36,556.49, general warrant #1008 for \$643,763.32, general warrant #1009 for \$30,044.76, and payroll warrant #5 for \$133,647.83. So voted.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed an e-mail from resident Louise Ojerholm inquiring about a senior work program in which senior citizens perform services for the town in exchange for a reduction in their real estate taxes. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he is aware that Spencer and Southbridge have implemented this program, and that he will call those two towns for information. Mrs. Walter stated that the amount of potential tax abatement has been raised to \$1,000 per year.

Mrs. Walter suggested that Mrs. Ojerholm be sent a volunteer card while the selectmen are investigating the program. Mrs. Walter explained the cards that she has designed, and suggested that they be left at the library, senior center, and town offices so that any resident who is interested in volunteering to serve the town would be able to indicate their preferred committee or position. The cards would be kept on file, and be consulted when a committee vacancy occurs.

B. Mr. Petraitis noted that CMRPC is still looking for the selectmen to appoint an alternate to the commission. Since no one has expressed an interest in the position, Mrs. Walter will serve until someone is found. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Mrs. Walter as the town's alternate to CMRPC. So voted.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Police Chief Thomasian asking for permission to hire more part-time officers. The Chief has previously discussed this with the selectmen, and this time he has included statistics showing how

many calls his department has handled from 2004 to the present. The selectmen were in agreement that they are willing to consider the request, providing the Chief can ensure that this won't increase his budget. It was agreed to discuss this with the Chief at next week's meeting.

B. Highway Superintendent Gary Jean was present to give his monthly report of work done in August. Mr. Jean thanked residents for their patience with the recent paving projects done on Old East Brookfield Road, Summer Street, and Lincoln Road.

Mr. Jean also discussed the need to re-paint all of the yellow lines in town. This is something that is done annually, but because the highway department budget was cut \$54,000 for FY2010, Mr. Jean does not have the money to do this. He believes that it is a safety issue, and needs to be done, regardless of where the money comes from. The selectmen agreed that it is a safety issue, and gave permission for Mr. Jean to spend the approximately \$5,687 needed. Mr. Jean will not be painting the white edge lines, as that is not so critical.

C. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, asking for the selectmen to appoint a representative. The QVDC provides small business loans, assistance, and training to area businesses. Mr. Petraitis asked that any interested resident contact the selectmen.

D. The selectmen discussed plans to try off-camera meetings once per month. Mr. Filipkowski and Mr. Petraitis stated that some residents have told them that they are not comfortable speaking to the selectmen on-camera. Mrs. Walter stated that she is concerned that controversial items might be saved for non-camera nights in order to avoid public scrutiny. It was agreed to begin non-camera meetings at the last meeting of every month beginning September 29<sup>th</sup>, on a trial basis.

E. Mrs. Walter announced that tickets for the retirement party for Sergeant Doug Blood are now on sale for \$35 each. The party will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Spencer Country Inn.

F. Mr. Filipkowski read an update on the Fall Festival tentatively scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Event planned include hayrides, live music, food vendors, and games and activities for the entire family.

G. The Girl Scouts will hopefully attend next week's meeting.

H. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from the Playground Committee that they will be hosting a family movie night on the common this Saturday at 7:30 PM. The movie to be shown will be "Hotel for Dogs."

I. The selectmen addressed the volunteer cards previously under Old Business, Item A.

J. Under future agenda items, Mr. Filipkowski noted that the Girl Scouts should be coming next week, and Mrs. Walter confirmed that the Board will discuss the creation of a regional Council of Governments at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At 7:47 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