

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 13, 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 September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> as amended. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1014 for \$\$89,114.97, general warrant #1015 for \$508,684.30, and payroll warrant #8 for \$272,481.83. So voted.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jim Metcalf of the Educational Task Force, along with task force members Deb Arnold, Marty Toomey, and Greg Sinner, gave a powerpoint presentation of their work so far. According to Mr. Metcalf, three areas of concern were identified during the Master Plan process two years ago. Those three areas of concern were: the fact that the school budget accounts for 50% of the town's budget, the continuing out-migration of students through school choice, and the possibility that the state may mandate school district consolidation or regionalization.

The committee has worked to gather information about the factors affecting the North Brookfield schools, and to bring forth options and alternatives. Some of the future options could include charter, magnet, or other alternative school models.

The committee will continue to work to gather information, including a survey to town residents to be sent out with the town census in January.

The selectmen thanked the committee for their efforts.

B. Mrs. Walter discussed the town's application to EPA for a Brownfields Cleanup Grant to be used to clean petroleum contamination at the town house. Public input and support is critical to the application, and the selectmen asked that residents and community groups send their letters of support to the selectmen to be included with the grant application.

C. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a proposal by Hampshire Power to become the town's electrical supplier. Geoff Rogers of Hampshire Power gave the selectmen a presentation last winter. National Grid has recently completed changing out streetlights in town to a more energy-efficient type of bulb, which will save the town significant money. A change of suppliers will also contribute to

the town's overall energy savings. The selectmen decided to move this topic to next week's meeting in order to study the Hampshire Power proposal more closely.

D. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the selectmen to department heads outlining recent changes to the Conflict of Interest law. Town employees will now be required to complete online training every two years, and department head will be responsible to ensure that their employees complete the training.

E. The selectmen reviewed the 13 articles submitted for inclusion on the November 6<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. The selectmen will make their final decisions next week after hearing input from the Finance Committee.

F. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he attended the open house at the Fire Department training center this weekend, and found the entire place "amazing." Mrs. Walter had similar comments as well. The selectmen thanked the Fire Department for all of their hard work at the center.

G. Mr. Petraitis noted that last spring when the town reduced budgets, the library budget was reduced to the point where it does not meet the state minimum, and the town's state funding is in jeopardy. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the selectmen and finance committee to the state Board of Library Commissioners explaining why the cuts were necessary, and stating that the town is committed to restoring full funding to the library when finances permit. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the letter. So voted.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed the police report for the month of September as submitted by Police Chief Thomasian. It included 30 incidents for the month, and 16 arrests or citations. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

B. Mr. Petraitis noted that several people have stepped forward to volunteer for the new CDBG Committee, which will assist with the town's block grant applications. Since Tim Hansen of CMRPC will be here on October 27<sup>th</sup> for a public hearing, the selectmen will ask those volunteers to come to that meeting.

C. Last year the selectmen received \$400 from the North Brookfield Cultural Council to enlarge and frame historic photographs to hang in the new town offices. This year the selectmen will ask for another \$400 to continue the process. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the grant application.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Filipkowski read the list of seven properties to be sold by the town at a tax-title auction this Thursday at 11 AM.

B. Mr. Petraitis read the announcement that the retirement party for Sergeant Doug Blood will be held this Friday at 6 PM at the Spencer Country Inn. Tickets are \$35.

C. Mrs. Walter noted the Halloween schedule for October 31<sup>st</sup>: a parade from the school to the fire station at 4 PM, and trick or treat from 5:30 to 6:30.

D. Mr. Filipkowski read a notice from the Board of Health regarding a flu clinic to be held November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant