

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2009

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

I. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2009 as written. So voted, with Mrs. Walter abstaining.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Treasurer Anne Jannette noting that last week's tax title auction netted the town a total of \$152,550.00, which is due and payable to the town by November 15th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint John Lane to the Historical Commission. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Jack Lawlor asking to be appointed as an alternate to the Council on Aging. COA secretary Julie McCarthy also sent along a letter noting that the COA approves of this appointment. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Lawlor. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

B. The selectmen reviewed a contract proposal from Hampshire Power to become the town's energy supplier. Mrs. Walter noted that she is concerned about the volatility of oil prices. If the town went with the real-time offering there is a chance that the rate could increase if oil prices go up. After some discussion it was agreed to go with the basic fixed rate of 8.2 cents per kwh, which is still cheaper than National Grid. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve a one year contract with Hampshire Power for the fixed rate of 8.2 cents per kwh. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Finance Committee co-chairs Bob Smith and Jim Lovett regarding the November 6th Special Town Meeting. Mr. Smith noted that things had changed since the letter was written, today the town received notice from the Department of Revenue that Free Cash has been certified at \$210,125.00. Mr. Smith stated that the Finance Committee will be able to make their recommendations for the meeting. Mrs. Walter stated that in

her opinion the selectmen should include all 17 of the articles submitted, and the voters can decide what to do with them. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the warrant. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion that the sale of the \$3,913,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2009 Bonds of the Town dated October 15, 2009 (the "Bonds"), to Roosevelt & Cross, Inc. at the price of \$3,913,000.00 and accrued interest is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on October 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as indicated. So voted.

D. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean noting that his department will not remove leaves, snow, or other debris that is pushed onto streets and sidewalks. Mrs. Walter reminded residents that this means residents cannot rake their leaves into the street and expect that the town will pick them up.

E. Brandon Avery, a member of the Quaboag 350th Anniversary Committee, read a letter in which the committee announced that the Grand Ball will be held on January 2, 2010 as the kickoff event for all of the anniversary celebrations. The ball will feature a march of attending dignitaries, and the committee asked that each of the selectmen let them know if they plan to attend.

F. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign a contract with the state to accept \$4,000 in funding for the North Brookfield Cultural Council to distribute to grant recipients. So voted and signed.

G. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a letter to the Department of Housing and Community Development acknowledging the final quarterly report for the Duncan Building project. Mr. Petraitis signed the letter.

H. Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Water Department that was received by the Town Collector regarding quarterly billing. The water department asked the collector for a cost estimate for the collector's office to process two additional bills per year. Mrs. Walter noted that the Water Department should have presented a proposal to the selectmen before they spoke to the collector. This is a long-range goal for the town. It was agreed to file this under future discussions.

I. In regards to cuts in local aid, Mr. Filipkowski stated that he believes that North Brookfield officials have done their best to maintain town services without cutting personnel. He would like the selectmen to send a letter to our

local state officials asking for proper representation in Boston when it comes to any future cuts. Mr. Filipkowski will draft something for the other two selectmen to review.

Mr. Petraitis noted that three weeks ago the selectmen received an e-mail from the Chief of Police regarding potential budget problems. The selectmen had discussed possibly having the Chief come to a meeting to discuss the matter. Mr. Petraitis spoke to the Chief and then sent out a personal e-mail stating that the Chief was merely informing the selectmen and finance committee about potential problems should something unforeseen occur, such as an injury to an officer. Mr. Petraitis went on to say that he would like to enter those particular e-mails into the record of tonight's meeting. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter the e-mail from Mr. Petraitis, as well as the two original e-mails from Chief Thomasian, into the record of this meeting. So voted, with Mrs. Walter voting no.

Mrs. Walter stated that she believes that the Chief was telling the selectmen and the finance committee that he will be coming back to ask for more money. Mrs. Walter asked Chief Thomasian what he meant by his e-mail. The Chief replied that if he does not get the three part-time officers that he requested, he will incur overtime costs.

Mrs. Walter stated that she did not like Mr. Petraitis making a unilateral decision not to place the Chief on the selectmen's agenda. Mr. Petraitis stated that as chairman it is his prerogative to set the agenda, and he did not place the Chief on the agenda because he believes that the Chief's e-mail was misunderstood.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed the schedule of events for Halloween on October 31st. There will be a parade for the children from the school to the fire station at 4 PM, and then trick or treating from 5:30 – 6:30.

B. Mr. Filipkowski read an announcement that there will be a flu clinic on November 17th at the Senior Center. Mr. Filipkowski stressed that this is for the seasonal flu, not the H1N1 flu. Mr. Filipkowski noted that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has great information available on their website, and the Board of Health has a booklet on the flu available to residents.

At 8:20 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, abstains; Filipkowski, yes. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 9:10 PM the Board came out of executive session.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant