

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2009

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with all members present. Mr. Petraitis offered the Board's condolences to the family of former selectman Robert Lane, who passed away last week.

I. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to postpone approval of the minutes of October 20, 2009. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1016 for \$72,085.35, general warrant #1017 for \$2,529,333.33, general warrant #1018 for \$261,710.33, and payroll warrant #9 for \$285,632.59. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign a contract with Hampshire Power for electric supply beginning December 1, 2009 at a fixed rate of 8.2 cents per kWh. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Commission asking that a selectman attend a meeting in Brookfield on November 18th at 6:30 PM. Mrs. Walter noted that this really important for the town because the CMMPO is responsible for prioritizing how federal funds are spent on roads and bridges in the area. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to have Mr. Petraitis attend the meeting on behalf of the town. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter noted that the residents of 39 Spring Street had called regarding a street light near their home that was removed over the summer by National Grid. This was not a town-owned light, a resident who is now deceased paid for the light on his own. Mrs. Walter stated that she believes that the lack of the street light is a safety issue, since the street is very dark and trucks going to Madix often get lost and go down Spring Street. Mrs. Walter recommended that the town install a new light. Mr. Filipkowski noted that he has not seen the area yet, and he would like the chance to see if for himself before he makes a decision. Mr. Filipkowski and Mr. Petraitis will look at the situation this week, and the Board will discuss it again next week. Mr. Filipkowski moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to defer action on this until next week. So voted, with Mrs. Walter voting no.

C. Mrs. Walter presented a draft of the FY2011 Budget Policy, which is the first step in the town's budget process. From the budget policy the Finance Committee will create budget guidelines for town officials. There were few changes from the FY2010 policy, Mrs. Walter stated that she changed the dates to reflect this year's correct dates, and also added language to item #4 stating that the selectmen and finance committee will adhere to Department of Revenue policies and interpretations. Mr. Petraitis stated that he objected to the word "interpretation." After some discussion, Mrs. Walter offered to withdraw her additional language. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the FY2011 Budget Policy as revised by Mrs. Walter, minus the additional language. So voted.

D. Mrs. Walter noted that last year the selectmen became aware that the teacher's contract will be expiring in June of this year, and that the selectmen may have a representative on the negotiating team. She suggested that the selectmen do some research on the subject before negotiations begin. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he would like to look into this and serve as the temporary representative.

E. Mr. Petraitis explained that the selectmen are creating a new committee to help with Community Development Block Grant applications. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Sewer Superintendent Rodney Jenkins, Water Superintendent Steve Jones, Highway Superintendent Gary Jean, Planning Board representative Steve Cummings, and community representative Joe Zegarra to the new CDBG Advisory Committee. So voted.

F. At 7:30 Tim Hansen of CMRPC was present for a public hearing on the town's Community Development Strategy. This is an important step in the block grant process. The CDS was last updated in August of 2007. Mr. Hansen noted that the purpose of the hearing tonight was only to hear comments and suggest potential changes. The revised strategy can be formally adopted by the selectmen at a later date.

Mr. Hansen also suggested that the CDS be updated to include the fact that Troy Brown is interested in renovating the Nash Building. It will also be updated to reflect the fact that the library project is completed, and the police station is underway.

Mr. Hansen showed a map of the target area for the block grant application, which is primarily the downtown area, "Little Canada," and residential areas south to Union Street.

Mr. Jones asked if the selectmen hadn't recently designated certain parts of town as slum and blight areas? Mr. Hansen stated that they did, but the town must

also target an area to meet national objectives that have more than 51% of the area residents of low to moderate income.

Mr. Jenkins asked how is the level of income determined?

Mr. Hansen stated that the information is provided by the federal census.

Mrs. Walter stated that she will e-mail some suggested changes to the CDS out to everyone.

Mr. Hansen stated that he will meet with the new CDBG Advisory Committee to update the CDS and make recommendations regarding the target areas. He noted that the CDBG application is due February 12th.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be a Halloween parade Saturday for the children at 4 PM from the school to the fire station, and trick or treating will be allowed from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

B. Mrs. Walter announced that there will be a flu clinic at the Senior Center on November 17th for the annual flu, not the H1N1.

C. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a letter from the state Department of Public Health regarding the shortage of H1N1 flu vaccine. The state expects that the largest shipments of the vaccine will arrive in December and January.

Mrs. Walter asked Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Filipkowski what would they consider the selectmen's workplace? The stated that the selectmen's meetings, or any posted meeting that they attend, and the selectmen's office at 215 North Main Street could be considered workplaces. They also stated that anytime they are doing outside research for the selectmen it could be considered a workplace.

At 8:07 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

