

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2009

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

I. Mr. Petraitis stated that he was not ready to approve the minutes of October 20<sup>th</sup> yet, and Mr. Filipkowski stated that he would abstain from approving the November 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes because he was not in attendance that week. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2009. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1019 for \$62,769.54, general warrant #1020 for \$512,918.82, and payroll warrant #10 for \$269,297.86. So voted.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

F. The Board of Selectmen presented former police sergeant Douglas Blood a plaque commemorating his 25 years of service to North Brookfield.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Board reviewed three projects being submitted to the Capital Improvement Planning Commission; the remediation of contaminated soil at the town house, the stabilization of the bell tower and repair of the roof on the town house, and the town house renovation itself. The selectmen discussed and ranked the three projects to be submitted.

B. Bob Smith and Dick Chabot of the Finance Committee came in to present a draft of a letter to be sent to department heads regarding the FY2011 budget process. The departments will be asked to present a level-funded bottom line, and also to present a budget with a 10% reduction and to detail the potential impact of that cut. In addition, Mr. Smith and the Finance Committee are concerned that there could be a cut in local aid that will impact budgets for this fiscal year. Mr. Smith asked that the selectmen set up a meeting with department heads next Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, to present this information.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

D. Sheila Buzzell and Reedy Nealer of the Board of Assessors came in for the annual Tax Classification Hearing. Mrs. Buzzell reported that approximately 92% of the property in North Brookfield is residential. Mrs. Walter

moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to set one tax rate for this fiscal year. So voted.

A. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Police Chief Thomasian asking that the Board appoint two new part-time officers: Tammy Willey and Felix Ramos. Both are North Brookfield residents and are graduates of the part-time academy. The chief introduced the two candidates. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Tammy Willey and Felix Ramos as part-time officers. So voted.

G. Senior Center Director Louise Bouchard came in to update the selectmen on some changes coming to the Meals on Wheels program. Currently, the main site is located in West Brookfield, and drivers pick up the meals in West Brookfield and then drive to North Brookfield to deliver them. Participation in West Brookfield has been declining in recent years, while the North Brookfield program has been very successful. Tri-Valley, Inc., who runs the meals program, will be moving the main site to North Brookfield. This will mean a shorter drive for the volunteers who deliver the meals, and also could mean a second route in North Brookfield that could serve additional clients. Overall this is very good news for North Brookfield.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

C. Mr. Filipkowski noted that over the summer the selectmen had requested information on fees charged for various town services. Departments were asked to list the fees that they currently charge, and also to compare North Brookfield's fees to those charged in area towns. Mr. Filipkowski reported that he has received some information back from town officials, and he has also gone onto websites from other towns for more information about what those towns charge. For the most part, North Brookfield's fees appear to be in the middle of what is charged in the other towns. Mr. Filipkowski also noted that some of the other towns that offer online payments through UniBank have a link to that right on the front page of the website.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Mike Tillotson, co-chair of the Local Public Access Committee. Mr. Tillotson noted that LPAC is slated for 8 members, but is currently operating well with only 5. He asked that the selectmen consider permanently reducing the size of the committee to 5. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to reduce the size of the LPAC. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Treasurer Anne Jannette explaining that the Insurance Advisory Committee recently recommended changing retiree insurance from Medex 3 to Medex 2. This will save the retirees approximately \$500 per year in premiums, and will save the town nearly \$60,000 over the course of one year. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee. So voted.

E. Chief Thomasian presented his monthly report for October. He reported that there were 38 incidents and 17 arrests or summons for the month. He also reported that the winter parking ban will begin on November 20<sup>th</sup>. That means that there is no parking on the street from 1 AM to 6 AM. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed an announcement from the police department that applications for the annual Toys for Joy program will be accepted until December 4<sup>th</sup>.

B. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed an announcement from the Board of Health that the flu clinic has been rescheduled, courtesy of Fallon Community Health Plan. There will be a limited amount of vaccine available to town employees and residents only on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center. Pre-registration is encouraged.

The Board members thanked all of the veterans who have served this country, and wished them well.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:13 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant