

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 5, 2010

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 December 22, 2009 as written. So voted, with Mrs. Walter abstaining because she was not present at that meeting.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve school warrant #1034 for \$68,005.00, general warrant #1035 for \$317,101.07, and payroll warrant #14 for \$273,852.28. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter gave a brief review of the December 22nd Regional Selectmen's Task Force meeting that she attended. At a previous meeting the task force agreed to target three specific projects: a regional purchasing agent, a regional personnel board, and a regional hearings officer. The representatives that were present from West Brookfield, North Brookfield, and Brookfield all confirmed that the three projects had received support from their respective Boards of Selectmen.

Mrs. Walter stated that the regional purchasing agent appears to be the most viable project, in which a purchasing contact for each town would work directly with the regional purchasing agent to purchase consumables such as paper products and fuel.

The task force decided to recommend a regional personnel board for the purpose of standardizing job descriptions and creating employee evaluation processes.

Mrs. Walter reported that the regional hearings officer was only discussed briefly because of a lack of information. Bob Sousa of Warren, the person who had suggested this post, was not present at this meeting.

The next meeting of the regional task force is set for January 14th, and the group has agreed to set July 1, 2010 as the target date for regional implementation of the three projects.

B. Tim Hansen of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and Planning Board Vice-Chairman Steve Cummings were present to ask the selectmen to approve a Community Development Strategy (CDS) for the town. The CDS had previously been discussed at the October 27, 2009 and December 22, 2009 selectmen's meetings.

Mr. Filipkowski noted that on page 3, the second paragraph references the need for new police and fire facilities; this should be corrected to reflect the nearly completed new police station. Mr. Cummings agreed, and noted that he had seen a few typos that should be corrected as well.

Mrs. Walter and Mr. Filipkowski both asked that the bullet points on the first page that list the town's priorities be modified so that regionalization appears at the bottom of the list. Mr. Filipkowski stated that his priority is North Brookfield, and the need to support job creation and new business in North Brookfield should come before any regionalization efforts.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the Community Development Strategy as presented, to include the two corrections listed above. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the New Braintree Board of Selectmen asking if North Brookfield would like to share engineering costs for a repair project for Route 67. It was agreed that Mr. Filipkowski will attend the January 11th selectmen's meeting in New Braintree to obtain further information.

D. Mrs. Walter noted that last January the Board of Selectmen had discussed the possibility of paying overtime pay to the Highway Superintendent. At that time the board agreed that it was something they would like to look into, but the town's financial uncertainty made that difficult. The Water and Sewer Superintendents receive overtime pay. Mrs. Walter asked that the selectmen try to rectify the situation that exists for the current fiscal year and in time to plan for the FY2011 budget. It was agreed to discuss this again on January 19th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Dunivan of 44 Ryan Road came in asking to be appointed to the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Dunivan noted that he was trained as a disaster preparedness specialist in the Navy. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Dunivan. So voted.

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed the police report for the month of December as submitted by Chief Thomasian. The Chief reported 50 incidents and 13 arrests or summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter explained that she has submitted paperwork to CMRPC for a grant to clean up the petroleum contamination at the town house. This initial

request is a site nomination form that will allow CMRPC to look at the project and decide if it warrants further consideration.

Mrs. Walter noted that DEP was concerned because the town owned the property when the contamination was caused by parties leasing the property, but EPA has indicated that the town should go forward with the application.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Filipkowski announced that the town will hold a second H1N1 flu clinic on January 14th at the elementary school cafeteria for all town residents. This will also be when children under 10 who were vaccinated at the December clinic will receive their second shot. Members of NBEMA will be on hand to assist Harrington Hospital with setting up the clinic.

B. Mr. Filipkowski announced that there will be a public hearing next Tuesday at the selectmen's meeting on the town's potential Community Development Block Grant application. The hearing will be to consider suggestions for possible activities that would benefit the town, such as infrastructure repairs, housing rehabilitation, social services, or planning activities.

Mrs. Walter noted that the town can apply for a Local Technical Assistance grant through CMRPC. CMRPC would supply consulting time on a project, with priority given to regional projects. Last year CMRPC provided assistance in drafting a regional wetland by-law. Mrs. Walter would like to have the regional selectmen's group apply for assistance to any one of their three targeted projects; the regional purchasing agent, the regional personnel board, or the regional hearings agent. Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Filipkowski agreed that this would be a good topic to bring up at the next regional meeting on January 14th.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant