

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 12, 2010

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

I. Mrs. Walter stated that the January 5th minutes do not accurately reflect her intention in regards to the issue of overtime pay for the Highway Superintendent. She asked that the minutes be amended to show that she wants the board to try to rectify the situation that exists for the current fiscal year, and in time to plan for the FY2011 budget. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the minutes as amended. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reminded residents that there will be a special state election next Tuesday, January 19th, to elect a new senator for Massachusetts. Polling hours will be 7 AM to 8 PM in the Senior Center.

B. Mr. Petraitis noted that the selectmen would like to update the town's job descriptions. The current job descriptions were done by the Mass Municipal Association back in 1988. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to send out the current job descriptions to department heads by the end of this week, along with a questionnaire to be filled out, and that the questionnaires should be returned to the selectmen's office by the end of January. So voted.

C. Mr. Filipkowski noted that he and Mr. Petraitis attended last night's meeting of the New Braintree Board of Selectmen in order to gather more information on a potential road repair project for Route 67. New Braintree had recently sent a letter to the North Brookfield and Barre selectmen asking if there is any interest in the project that will hopefully be funded by a TIP grant. New Braintree suggested that the initial engineering costs be shared by the three towns. New Braintree is going to contact CMRPC and Mass Highways for information on how to begin the process. Mr. Filipkowski noted that New Braintree selectmen are looking for a complete reconstruction of the portion that goes through their town. It was agreed that the North Brookfield selectmen need to find out what work has been done on Route 67 in the past. The selectmen will discuss this with Highway Superintendent Gary Jean next week when they meet with him to discuss overtime pay.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed information from the Town Clerk regarding the town's annual election to be held on May 3rd. There are 16 positions up for re-election. The last day to submit nomination papers is March 15th, and the last day to register to vote is April 13th.

B. Tim Hansen of CMRPC was present for a public hearing on the town's potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Also in attendance was CDBG Advisory Committee member Steve Cummings, and residents Brandon Avery, Bob Bishop, Troy Brown, and James Caldwell.

Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail from North Brookfield resident Jay Mooney asking if upgrades to the track and the school ball fields would be an acceptable activity under the CDBG guidelines.

Mr. Hansen stated that he has spoken with DHCD about the town's Slum and Blight inventory, and reported that it will be approved, but it will not be approved for any sub-grade improvements such as sewer or water line repairs. Mr. Hansen stated that he hopes to submit more documentation on past problems in an effort to qualify next year.

Mr. Hansen reported that 209 Main Street is considered to be in "fair" condition. This is the building that Mr. Troy Brown is considering for a mixed use project. This project would be eligible to apply under the Economic Development Fund (EDF), which is a larger pool of money than the CDBG fund, so the project would have a better chance of being funded.

The Maple Street water line project was not accepted by DHCD because it does not meet one of the three national objectives.

Mr. Hansen stated that he is advising the selectmen not to submit a CDBG application at this time because the Maple Street project does not meet national objective, and the 209 Main Street project would have a better chance with an EDF application. Mr. Cummings noted that all of the work of the CDBG Advisory Committee will not be wasted, it will help the town in the next round of CDBG applications, which will be due in December of 2010. The town needs to find the funding to pay for the engineering of the Maple Street water line in order to have a better chance of obtaining grant funds.

Mr. Avery and Mr. Caldwell asked questions about CDBG funds in relation to the town house renovation. Mr. Hansen replied that CDBG funds will only pay for ADA compliance issues, and the town must have all other project financing secured first.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Cummings noted that they will be back before the selectmen when there is more information about the EDF grant application process for 209 Main Street, which should be available soon.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed two e-mails from resident Ann Hicks inviting the selectmen to walk the land at 13 Bates Street on January 23rd. Mrs. Hicks is proposing that the town acquire the 29 acre parcel through a Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant. Mrs. Walter stated that she has spoken to Mrs. Hicks, and that she fully understands and supports the endeavor. Mrs. Walter stated that she will be attending the MMA conference in Boston on the 23rd. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he would not be able to go on the 23rd, but would be available on the 30th. Leslie will contact Mrs. Hicks about postponing the meeting until January 30th.

Mrs. Walter stated that she would like the town to join the Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association for the rest of the fiscal year at a reduced rate of \$100. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to join the MMPA for the rest of the year. So voted.

D. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from Building Inspector John Couture asking for permission to contact town counsel on a zoning issue. Mr. Couture wrote that a proposed animal clinic and shelter has applied for a building permit in an existing auction building. Mr. Couture is unsure if this use would qualify under the town's zoning by-laws, or under the town's new Overlay District. Mrs. Walter noted that this is also an important issue for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to forward the questions to town counsel. So voted.

E. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a letter from the Brookfield Council on Aging asking about the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between North Brookfield and Brookfield regarding the outreach worker. Since Brookfield is unable to locate this MOU, it was agreed to table the letter until such time as the selectmen are able to obtain a copy of the MOU for review.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mrs. Walter read a press release from the Board of Health regarding an H1N1 flu clinic to be held on Thursday, January 14th at the elementary school. The clinic is open to all town residents, and children under the age of 10 that received their first vaccination at the earlier clinic will be able to get their second shot.

Mr. Filipkowski asked that residents not arrive at the school before 3 PM as the school will be dismissing the children for the day and there will be a lot of busses and traffic at that time. Also, the clinic will not be set up before 3, and there is plenty of vaccine available, so there is no reason for people to arrive early.

B. Mr. Filipkowski read an announcement about a basketball game between the Harlem Superstars and the North Brookfield Dream Team to be held on Sunday, January 17. The game is being sponsored by the Friends of the North Brookfield Playground. Mr. Filipkowski noted that this is a “good cause and a good time.”

C. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from Hearts for Heat, who is sponsoring a spaghetti supper and movie night on January 23rd at the elementary school. Tickets are \$7 per person, with a maximum price of \$20 per family.

D. Mrs. Walter announced that due to the special state election, next week’s selectmen’s meeting will be held in the town offices at 215 North Main Street.

At 7:50 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing a proposed collective bargaining contract. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 8:15 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