

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 26, 2010

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

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2010 as amended. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the January 19th executive session minutes as amended. So voted.

Mrs. Walter noted that she attended the MMA conference in Boston this past weekend. There were many good seminar topics, but that attendees were only able to choose two sessions per day from a long list of important topics. Mrs. Walter also reported that Governor Patrick announced in a speech at the conference that he will not be cutting local aid or Chapter 70 funding for the FY2011 budget.

Mr. Filipkowski stated that he and Mr. Petraitis attended the Hearts for Heat spaghetti supper Saturday night. One hundred fifty-nine meals were served, and \$1,500 was raised to buy heating oil for needy North Brookfield residents.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a memo from the Town Clerk regarding the May 3rd Annual Town Election. Nomination papers are currently available, and must be returned to the Town Clerk by March 15th. The last day to register to vote is April 13th. Mrs. Walter stated that it is not too late to become a candidate for any of the offices, which will be voted on this election.

B. Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Brookfield Council on Aging asking for the status of the MOU between Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield regarding senior outreach services. Brookfield has been unable to produce a copy of the MOU, so the selectmen had asked Senior Center Director Louise Bouchard for more information. Mrs. Bouchard gave the selectmen a copy of the agreement that was signed in 2000 among the three towns, and was called a "Letter of Support." Mrs. Bouchard reported that the elder outreach program was begun at the request of the state Office of Elder Affairs with a state grant, but eventually all of the participating towns began contributing town funds.

Mr. Filipkowski asked Mrs. Bouchard to review the job descriptions that were sent out last week to make sure that they are still relevant. Mrs. Walter noted that any overlaps between the Director and the Outreach Coordinator should be shown on the job descriptions.

C. Mrs. Walter reviewed a proposal to make the Outreach Coordinator an independent contractor position rather than a salaried position. She presented a written outline of a plan for sharing/regionalizing the position with Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, and Warren. The Outreach Coordinator could work as many hours as the towns feel that they need for services, and work from a home office. Each Town would pay the Outreach Coordinator for services rendered. The towns would enter into an Inter-local Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.

Mrs. Bouchard stated that this may work out down the road, but we are in the middle of the fiscal year right now. Brookfield gives the town \$2,000 and East Brookfield gives \$3,000 for outreach services. She stated that the former Outreach Coordinator was in East Brookfield approximately one hour per week, and in Brookfield a couple of hours per month.

Mrs. Walter asked that the board consider this. Mr. Filipkowski stated that he really likes the idea, and agreed that it may be a way to provide enhanced services to more seniors.

D. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the Renewable Energy Trust regarding a \$4,272.99 grant received by the town. The funds were used by the school to purchase various science kits. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to accept the grant on behalf of the School Gift Account. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Four members of the East Brookfield Friends for the Community presented a grill that will be permanently mounted at the town beach to the selectmen and Doug Blood of the Town Beach Committee. The group had presented a second grill to the East Brookfield selectmen the previous night.

B. Mr. Filipkowski read a letter from the Water Department regarding fishing at Horse Pond Reservoir. The letter states that the Board of Water Commissioners voted to rescind their September 2009 decision to completely ban fishing there, and to allow fishing by permit only. The permits cost a \$5 one-time fee, and are available from the Water Department on Bell Road.

C. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from EPA informing the town that their application for an EPA cleanup grant for the town house soil contamination did not meet initial threshold criteria and will not receive any further consideration. The reason given is that the town has owned the town house since 1847, and is considered a potentially responsible party to the contamination. Mrs. Walter noted that she has requested a debriefing conference with EPA, and has

contacted Senator Brewer to lend his support to an appeal. The town has also applied to CMRPC for an assessment grant for this same property.

D. Mr. Petraitis stated that last week during a meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners he asked that they consider cross-training any new employee so that he or she could work at the sewer department or highway department. This would make sense for the town financially, and could help departments during peak periods. Mr. Petraitis has since asked all three departments for their feedback on the idea, and asked that they list their pros and cons for the selectmen.

E. Mr. Petraitis noted that two weeks ago he and Mr. Filipkowski attended a meeting of the New Braintree selectmen to discuss a repair project for Route 67. New Braintree approached North Brookfield and Barre to ask if the towns would be interested in sharing the engineering costs for such a project.

Highway Superintendent Gary Jean was present, and stated that to his knowledge, there hasn't been much work done on the road since it was built 20 years ago.

Mrs. Walter noted that she has spoken with Mr. Rydant of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, who stated that this project would be eligible for federal funds.

Mr. Petraitis stated that New Braintree wants to do a complete reconstruction of the road, including culverts and manholes. Perhaps North Brookfield could incorporate moving storm water from the back of Reed and Conroy Avenues out into North Main Street.

Mr. Jean noted that he has spoken to a consultant from Coler and Colantonio about federal money for road projects. The town needs to do the engineering studies for any project in order to have the projects be "shovel ready" and ready for funding. Mr. Jean noted that the town has just under six miles of Route 67. Construction would easily top \$1 million. Mr. Jean stated that a lot of damage done to the town's roads is from sewer or water cuts not being repaired properly. He suggested that those departments be responsible for damage to the roads.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Ann Hicks inviting the selectmen to walk a 29-acre parcel of land on Bates Street this Saturday at 2 PM. Mrs. Hicks and a group of other interested residents would like the town to consider purchasing the property with grant funds as an addition to the town forest.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Tri Valley Nutrition site MOU
- B. Memo from Town Collector re: indirect costs
- C. Race to the Top program

At 8:05 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of conducting contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 8:55 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