

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center with all members present.

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve the executive session minutes of January 26, 2010 as amended by Mr. Filipkowski. So voted.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to defer action on the minutes of February 2, 2010 until February 16<sup>th</sup>. So voted.

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed an updated list of town offices up for re-election at the Annual Town Election on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk is Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

B. Mr. Petraitis noted that last week the selectmen discussed the senior outreach coordinator position, but decided to wait until this week to make a decision in order to allow the Council on Aging to weigh in on the issue. The COA met last night, and they stated their desire to hire an outreach worker as soon as possible to finish out the remainder of the year, with the potential to have the position become regional sometime in the future.

Mrs. Walter asked if the person hired would be a town employee or an independent contractor, and Mr. Petraitis stated that he believes it will remain as it was in the past, a town employee.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to proceed with the employment of an outreach coordinator as an employee of the town. So voted.

Mrs. Walter noted that at this point it would be difficult to proceed with a regional outreach worker concept, but if the opportunity presents itself in FY2011 she will pursue it.

C. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed a memo from the Safety Committee regarding a resident's request to restore a streetlight on Spring Street. Previously the light was paid for by a now-deceased homeowner. The house has since been sold, and the current owner had the light deactivated. According to Mr. Filipkowski, the four members of the Safety Committee evaluated the request and used a scorecard that is nationally recognized as a Hazard Rating tool through the

National Safety Council. The committee also used police department accident data in their evaluation. Some of the results of this process were:

- From Jan 2008-December 2009 there were only two logged incidents of TT units having a problem on Spring Street
- Most of the TT traffic coming from Madix takes place prior to 5:00 pm thereby reducing the chance of an exposure when lighting is minimal (during winter hours of course dusk can occur at 4:00 and this was taken into account)
- Communication with Madix can occur asking them to message drivers about not utilizing Spring Street thereby reducing potential exposure.
- One of the homes adjacent to pole #11 (the light pole currently deactivated) has a motion sensor light which activates as traffic flows through thereby increasing some lighting in that general area.
- The street lights at the base of the hill and the top of Prospect Street provide adequate travel lighting through the area.
- The overall scores on the checklist showed that this was not an imminent potential hazard and was not likely to cause an incident.

Mr. Filipkowski reported that the committee at this time is recommending that the light not be re-activated by the town based solely on the reason of a safety concern.

Mrs. Walter asked if Highway Superintendent Gary Jean was consulted for his opinion. Mr. Filipkowski stated that Mr. Jean was asked to attend the Safety Committee meeting, but did not.

Mrs. Walter asked how the data was compiled, and Mr. Filipkowski stated that each member compiled his or her own scorecard.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a license agreement that will allow National Grid to install needed equipment at the new police station in order to bring power to the building. The license is a temporary easement. The permanent easement requires approval by the voters at a town meeting, and will be voted on in May. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to approve and sign the license agreement. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter explained that when the town signed a contract with Hampshire Power for electrical supply services, three accounts were omitted: the street lighting bill, the charges for the town offices, and one for the senior center. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to sign a contract amendment with Hampshire Power adding the three accounts. So voted.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Filipkowski reviewed an e-mail from Richard Leblanc announcing a Valentine's Spaghetti Supper and Dance to be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion. The cost is \$8 per person, with a \$20 family cap.

Mr. Leblanc reported that all proceeds from the dinner dance will go to the Friends of the Playground Scholarship Fund. To date the group has given more than \$3,600 in scholarships to North Brookfield High School seniors.

#### V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Walter reviewed a list of future agenda items, including:

- An update on the selectmen's visit to 25 Bates Street
- The request to form a new committee to research the purchase of 25 Bates Street
- A request for appointment to the new committee
- The senior work program
- A letter to be sent to department heads asking them to quantify what type of help they are looking for due to budget constraints
- Job descriptions
- The Tri-Valley meal site MOU

At 6:55 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Filipkowski seconded, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy, and also to conduct collective bargaining. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Filipkowski, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 7:50 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