

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2010

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:30 PM with Mr. Chabot and Mr. Petraitis also present. Mrs. Walter announced that the meeting was being audio taped and video taped.

I. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the November 23, 2010 minutes as written. So voted.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the November 23, 2010 Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed a memo from Acting School Superintendent Gordon Noseworthy (Attachment #1) regarding a grant to replace windows at the Elementary School. Mrs. Walter noted that the window replacement did not qualify for a previous energy grant received by the school. Mr. Petraitis stated that it would be against the Town's best interest not to take advantage of the 58.8% grant funding. Mr. Chabot stated that in his opinion the windows should have been replaced several years ago. Mrs. Walter noted that she has drafted a response to the memo (Attachment #2) informing Mr. Noseworthy and the School Committee that they should seek the funding through a Special Town Meeting article.

Mrs. Walter noted that Treasurer Anne Jannette has proposed a way to fund the Town's portion of the project without a debt exclusion vote. Mr. Chabot suggested that the Finance Committee be asked for their input on the project, but that the fuel savings alone should be enough to offset the cost of the NEW windows. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to go forward with the project, and send the response letter to Mr. Noseworthy. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter read a letter from Town Collector Donna Gauthier (Attachment #3) suggesting that if the Town adopted MGL Chapter 60 Section 23 the fee for some municipal lien certificates could be raised. Mr. Chabot stated that in his opinion there were enough fees, and since it would be only a very small increase in revenue, this is an unnecessary fee. Mr. Petraitis agreed, saying that people are already having a hard time paying their bills. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to reject the proposal. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis stated that he has seen articles in the newspaper that other towns are conducting tax amnesty programs. One town is accepting a donation to the local food bank in exchange for forgiving interest and fees. Mr. Chabot suggested that the Town look into such a program. Mrs. Walter asked that that Town Collector Donna Gauthier be contacted for her recommendation. This will be a future agenda.

B. Mrs. Walter noted that winter is here. Mr. Chabot reviewed a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean asking for permission to run the Snow and Ice Account in a deficit. (Attachment #4) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to allow Mr. Jean to run the Snow and Ice Account in a deficit. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Police Department is sponsoring its annual Toys for Joy program to provide toys for needy children in North Brookfield. The deadline to sign up is December 8th, and toy pickup will be December 15th.

B. Mr. Chabot announced that last week he turned over \$1,200 to the town for the repair of the Town Clock. He will continue to pick up any unwanted vehicles for residents who want to donate the proceeds toward the clock project.

C. Mrs. Walter announced that the annual Tree Lighting will take place this Saturday at 6 PM. Children may write letters to Santa at the library from 4:45 to 5:45 before the tree lighting.

D. Mrs. Walter announced that the Senior Center Holiday Party will take place on Tuesday, December 21st.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Annual License renewals on December 7th

B. Mrs. Walter noted that she had a conference call this week with Whalley Computer and UniFund, and that Whalley is working on a Statement of Work for the accountant and treasurer's server, and it should be here by next week.

C. News is expected soon regarding the Horse Pond Dam project.

At 6:55 PM Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real

estate because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position. Roll call: Walter, yes; Chabot, yes; Petraitis, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 7:55 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant