

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 28, 2015**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 4 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Hevy also present.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to meet with legal counsel to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, and also to attend a collective bargaining session with members of the North Brookfield Highway Department. Roll call: Smith, yes; Walter, yes; Hevy, yes. So voted. Mr. Smith announced that the Board would reconvene in open session at the end of the negotiating session to discuss the FY16 budget.

At 5:20 PM the Board came out of Executive Session.

Mr. Smith noted that he spoke with Police Chief Thomasian and Fire Chief Gannon about the FY16 budget cuts recommended by the Finance Committee. He has asked them to detail the impact that these cuts will have on their respective departments. Mr. Smith asked Chief Thomasian to calculate the cost of maintaining a full schedule if we don't hire an officer to replace Brandon Fullam. The Finance Committee also cut the police overtime budget. It will be very expensive to fill shifts.

Mr. Smith said that when he met with Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel last Friday she had received new FY16 revenue estimates from the Collector and the Fire Chief. These new revenues amount to approximately \$74,000.00. This will cut the projected deficit to \$385,742.00. Mr. Smith then made some potential cuts of \$83,710.00, which cuts the projected deficit to \$302,032.00.

Mr. Smith explained that he has spoken to School Superintendent Tencza and asked for a detailed explanation of the school's request for an additional \$32,000.00 for FY15. In addition, Mr. Smith asked the superintendent for up to date figures on school choice; not the state figures, but the numbers from the North Brookfield schools.

Mr. Smith also spoke with Mrs. Tencza about the \$196,000.00 FY16 increase in the school budget that was requested by the School Committee. The superintendent is aware that the Town does not have the money to fund this increase.

Mr. Hevy stated that the Selectmen should consider adding a highway worker this year, in addition to hiring a police officer to replace Officer Fullam.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant