

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

Mrs. Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7:02 PM with Mr. Smith and Mr. Chabot also present. Mrs. Walter reminded those in attendance that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes. So voted.

**IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1014 FOR \$156,042.28
APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1015 FOR \$262,427.97
APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #7 FOR \$290,823.88**

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned warrants. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. MURPHY ROAD BRIDGE

Mrs. Walter noted that the Town has received an assessment of the condition of the closed bridge on Murphy Road from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. (Attachment #1) According to the DOT report, the inspectors found "heavy rusting to the entire underside, and that beams #3 and #4 show heavy rusting with measurable section loss." DOT has recommended installing a "no trespassing" sign. The Selectmen are sending all of those affected by the bridge closing a letter informing them of the steps that the Town has taken to address this issue. (Attachment #2)

B. CHIEF GANNON RE: EQUIPMENT LEASE/PURCHASE

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to speak with the Selectmen about his department's need to obtain new turnout gear. He noted that turnout gear has a lifespan of ten years, and the current gear is nearing its end. The Chief set up a committee of several officers to speak with vendors and other towns about the available options for new gear. The committee chose equipment from Firematic Supply of Bolton, MA. (Attachment #3) The cost is \$51,300.00 for 30 sets of gear. With a six-year lease to own program the Town would have to pay a down payment of \$13,000.00 plus the first year's payment of \$8,750.00, and then \$8,750.00 per year for each of the next five years. Chief Gannon noted that it would be helpful if the Town could come up with the \$13,000.00 down payment, the rest is in his budget.

Mrs. Walter asked why there is a need to purchase 30 sets of gear, and Chief Gannon stated that the department is currently at 35 men, but he does not believe that all of those men will stay on. In the past the department has tried to keep the roster around 30.

It was agreed that this will need to be discussed again when the Selectmen and Finance Committee meet to review articles submitted for the November 1st Special Town Meeting.

C. ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

Mrs. Walter asked to defer action on this item until we hear back from town counsel.

D. PURCHASE REQUESTS

Mr. Smith noted that the Selectmen have received some requests for clarification from various town officials since the new purchase request form was implemented two weeks ago. For example, the Board of Health recently questioned what to do in the case of emergency requests, and purchases from grants or for state-mandated inspections. He is working on language to clarify these questions.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. TIM BUTLER RE: ELECTRIC PRICING

Tim Butler, and independent sales consultant for several energy suppliers, was present to speak with the Board about electricity pricing. He stated that he is able to offer the Town a price of .649 instead of the .721 that we are currently paying, but that price expires at the end of September. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to go with a 12 month fixed price contract of the .649 per kWh beginning November 1st. So voted.

B. REVIEW ARTICLES FOR NOVEMBER 1ST STM

The Selectmen reviewed the articles submitted for inclusion on the November 1st Special Town Meeting warrant. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Smith noted that with certified Free Cash of approximately \$255,000.00, there is enough to take care of the FY14 operating deficit. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to meet with the Finance Committee next week to review the articles. So voted.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS OF INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Treasurer Anne Jannette regarding the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee regarding health insurance for the Town's retirees. (Attachment #4)

According to Mrs. Jannette, the IAC recommended that HMO Blue Senior Plan be offered effective January 1, 2014, and that the Fallon Senior Plan be phased out. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee. So voted.

D. REQUESTS FROM HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO RAISE PART-TIME RATE AND INCREASE CLERK HOURS

It was agreed to defer these two requests to next week when the Selectmen and Finance Committee get together to discuss the November 1st Special Town Meeting articles.

E. RESIGNATION OF OFFICER KACHADOORIAN

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail to Police Chief Thomasian from Adam Kachadoorian resigning from the Police Department effective September 6, 2013. (Available in the Selectmen's office.) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the resignation. So voted.

F. JULY AND AUGUST POLICE REPORTS

Mr. Chabot reviewed the police report for the month of July, and Mr. Smith reviewed the report for the month of August. (Both are available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen should recognize the officers involved in the recovery of a juvenile who had left the state in August, and another recent incident. It was agreed that the Selectmen should send a letter to be inserted into the personnel files of the men involved.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from James Caldwell, one of North Brookfield's representatives to the Bay Path Vocational School Committee, informing the Selectmen that Bay Path has achieved a Level 1 status regarding their MCAS scores. (Attachment #5) Level 1 is the highest accountability level, and reflects continued progress in meeting gap narrowing goals for all students. The Selectmen agreed that this is good news.

A. CULTURAL COUNCIL PROPOSALS DUE OCTOBER 15TH

Mr. Chabot reviewed an announcement from the North Brookfield Cultural Council that they are accepting grant proposals until October 15th, and they would especially like proposals related to the Town House Bell Tower restoration.

B. HYDRANT FLUSHING

Mrs. Walter announced that the Water Department will be flushing hydrants in town from September 23rd until October 18th.

C. ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPT 30TH

Mr. Smith reminded everyone that the deadline to register for adult education classes is Monday, September 30th.

D. FLU CLINIC TO BE HELD OCTOBER 7TH

Mrs. Walter read an announcement from the Board of Health that there will be a Flu Clinic at the Senior Center on Monday, October 7th from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Mrs. Walter reviewed a flyer from Hull Forest Products of Pomfret, Connecticut announcing that they will be hosting an open house on October 12th when people can have tours of the sawmill and watch local timber turned into lumber products.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. SIGN NOVEMBER 1ST STM WARRANT

B. ADOPT BUDGET POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Mrs. Walter stated that she would like to give project updates at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant