

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mr. Smith also present. Mr. Chabot was not present. Mrs. Walter asked for a moment of silence and offered the Board's condolences to the family of former Selectman Larry Hasenfus, whose wife passed away last week.

Mrs. Walter reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2013**

Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

**IA. APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1016 FOR \$474,620.00
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1017 FOR \$110,045.48
APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1019 FOR \$114,944.58
APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #8 FOR \$292,005.74**

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. SIGN WARRANT FOR NOVEMBER 1ST STM

The Selectmen reviewed the warrant for the November 1st Special Town Meeting. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign the warrant. So voted.

B. SIGN REVISED HAMPSHIRE POWER AGGREGATION AGREEMENT

Mrs. Walter noted that there were some questions regarding the terms of this agreement that have been referred to Town Counsel and then forwarded to Hampshire Power. The state has suggested that all 38 towns each sign an individual contract with Hampshire Power instead of everyone signing onto one contract. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign this contract after Town Counsel's comments are incorporated into the agreement. So voted.

C. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY CLERK HOURS

Mr. Smith read a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean requesting that his clerk be allowed to work additional hours. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter suggested that the additional hours be allowed during Mr. Jean's upcoming absence, and especially during the snow and ice season. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the additional hours thru June 30th, but revisit the issue during the FY15 budget process. So voted.

D. REQUEST TO INCREASE RATE FOR PART-TIME PLOW OPERATORS

Mrs. Walter read another letter from Mr. Jean asking for permission to increase the pay rate for part-time plow operators to \$15 per hour. (Attachment #2) According to Mr. Jean, the average rate in the area towns is \$16. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to allow Mr. Jean to set a new part-time rate up to \$16 per hour at his discretion. So voted.

E. FEMA RESOLUTION

Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve and sign a resolution adopting the Central Massachusetts Region-Wide Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Attachment #3) So voted and signed.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith read a note from an anonymous resident that was enclosed with a money order for \$365.00. The noted stated that the money was to be placed in the General Fund, and represented \$1.00 for each day of the past year. Mr. Smith noted that this is the third year that this person has made this donation. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the gift. So voted.

A. RESIGNATION OF LISA GRACE

Mrs. Walter read a letter from Lisa Grace resigning from the Finance Committee for personal reasons. (Attachment #4) Mrs. Walter noted that Mrs. Grace has been a very valuable member of the committee for some time, and Mr. Smith noted that when he was on the Finance Committee he always relied upon her judgment. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret, and to send a letter of thanks. So voted.

B. LETTER FROM SHIELA ORSI RE: APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Walter read a letter from Finance Committee alternate Sheila Orsi asking to be moved up to a full member. (Attachment #5) Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to make Mrs. Orsi a full member effective immediately. So voted.

C. RESIDENT LETTER RE: DOG BITE

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen received a complaint from a resident who was bitten by a dog while jogging on Bates Street. Mrs. Walter stated that dog bites are not acceptable from any dog, and no one should have to change their walking or jogging routes because a dog owner does not have a dog under control. Mrs. Walter noted that the Animal Control Officer has said that he has cited and fined the resident for this incident. She would like the Selectmen to send a letter to the dog owner saying that the dogs must be properly kenneled when outside and under the owner's control at all times. Mr. Smith agreed.

D. REQUEST TO PLACE SIGNS FOR BAY PATH OPEN HOUSE

Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Margaret Corsi of Bay Path Regional Vocational School asking for permission to place a 4' x 4' wooden sign in town announcing their open house. (Attachment #6) Mrs. Walter noted that the Town has by-laws regulating the size of signs. She said that she would be happy to post their notice on the sign in the center of town. Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to deny the request to place the sign, but to let Bay Path know that we will be happy to put their information on the town sign. So voted.

E. ACCEPT DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

Mr. Smith read a letter from Library Director Ann Kidd asking the Selectmen to accept a gift of \$5,200.00 from the Friends of the Library. (Attachment #7) Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the funds for the library. So voted.

F. PROJECT UPDATES/PAVING, MURPHY ROAD

Mrs. Walter noted that a letter was sent to all of the abutters and adjoining towns regarding the closing of the bridge on Murphy Road. The Selectmen are trying to obtain a temporary bridge through the state. The Selectmen did receive two letters from neighbors who are unhappy with the situation. One of the neighbors wants the road paved, but there is no money for that.

G. LETTER FROM SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Smith read a letter from Sheryl Blancato of the Second Chance Animal Shelter thanking the North Brookfield Police Department and the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency for their assistance at the September 15th Run Walk Wag sponsored by the shelter. (Attachment #8) According to Mrs. Blancato, the event raised over \$18,600.00.

H. UN DECLARATION

Mr. Smith read a declaration on behalf of the United Nations declaring October 24th as U N Day in North Brookfield. (Attachment #9)

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. CONSERVATION MEETING NEW TIME AND LOCATION

Mrs. Walter announced that the Conservation Commission is now meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Haston Free Library.

B. TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Mr. Smith announced that Police Chief Thomasian has set Thursday, October 31st from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM as the time for Trick or Treat.

C. DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR NOVEMBER 1ST STM

Mrs. Walter noted that the deadline to register to vote at the November 1st Special Town Meeting is Tuesday, October 22nd from 9 AM to 8 PM in the Town Clerk's office.

D. HYDRANT FLUSHING MEMO

Mr. Smith noted that the Water Department will be continuing the process of flushing hydrants until October 18th. Flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, and residents should refrain from doing laundry while these conditions exist.

E. CULTURAL COUNCIL APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 15TH

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that grant applications for Cultural Council projects are due by October 15th. Projects supporting the renovations of the Town House are especially desired this year.

F. FRIENDS OF THE TOWN HOUSE MEETING OCTOBER 10TH

Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Julie McCarthy, Chairman of the Friends of the Town House, announcing an informational meeting to be held in the Kiva Room of the High School on Thursday, October 10th.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Walter noted that we have already begun the FY15 budget process, and will begin reviewing budgets soon.

Mr. Smith noted that the Selectmen are meeting with town counsel on October 17th regarding the new job descriptions.

There being no further business, at 7:55 PM Mr. Smith moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant