

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, August 30, 2022. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following minutes-5/24/22, 5/24/22 exec 1, 5/24/22 exec 2, 5/31/22, 6/7/22, 6/13/22, 6/21/22 exec, and 6/21/22. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants-Payroll # 5 for \$276,043.33, General # 1009 for \$127,633.79, and School # 1008 for \$49,595.24. So voted.

Old Business: Mr. Petraitis stated that Bruce Arnold had requested a written response to his letter to the Board of Selectmen dated 7/23/2022. Mr. Petraitis read the letter (attachment 1). Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted. Mr. Petraitis asked Bruce if he would like a copy now or mailed to him, Bruce said he would take it now and Mr. Petraitis gave him the letter.

New Business:

Katie Byszek was not present to discuss a name change for NB Helps, will table unless she arrives at the meeting.

Accept Salem gift-table until next meeting, Ashley will get more information from Kirk Burnham.

ARPA Appointment-2 candidates applied for 1 position on the ARPA Committee. Neither candidate was at the meeting, they didn't know they had to be there. Mr. Tripp stated that any new appointment requires the person to be at the Selectmen's meeting. Ashley will reach out to the candidates and ask them to attend the September 13 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Fire Reports-Mr. Tripp read the fire reports for June and July. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

Town Alert App-Derik Veliz, Selectmen from Warren, was present to discuss the Town Alert App. Derik explained that the app would be free to North Brookfield for life. This app will be used by Town officials and department heads to make announcements about upcoming events, road closures, weather situations, ect. Residents can download the app and start using it right away, no email or password is needed. Mr. Trip said we've been working with Derik since May, and we've had meetings with department heads to show how the app works. Ashley Barre is the administrator of the app and will be able to add and remove users, the Board of Selectmen will vote on who has access to send out notifications. Bill King asked who was paying for the app, if it was a state or federal grant. Derik said it's a private program, Bill said it must be costing someone money. Derik explained that he is the developer of the app and lives in the area. Eventually he'd like the use of the app to spread, but he was able to choose 5 towns to give free lifetime use. Mr. Tripp asked how many towns are using it, Derik said 3 at the moment, he is also working on a subdivision of the app specifically for the Sewer department, Warren already has this in place. Mr. Tripp said only department heads have ability to post notifications, and there is no option for the public to respond in the app. Derik said that this app will reduce social media chaos, residents in Warren now expect to be notified through the app instead of having to search Facebook. Brooke Canada asked if there was a character limit, Derik said not really, and you can add

pictures, GPS locations, and links. This app is simple but effective. Ashley said the app is now live and sent a notification about the upcoming Special Election and State Primary Election. Derik provided flyers with a QR code so people can scan and download the app.

Chapter 90 Reimbursement Requests-

Mr. Tripp moved and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the Chapter 90 Reimbursement, amendment, request for \$1,400.00 for catch basin work on Bullard Rd. Mr. Petraitis noted this is the final payment for the project. So voted.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the Chapter 90 Reimbursement, amendment, request for \$2,740.00 for catch basin work on North St. So voted.

Patrick Wimberly, candidate for ARPA, came into the meeting. Mr. Petraitis asked him to tell us why he wants to be on the ARPA Committee, Patrick said to help out the town. Mr. Petraitis said he's spoken with Patrick in the past, and we will be making the appointment on 9/13, and asked if Patrick could attend that meeting.

Public Comment:

Bruce Arnold stated that Mr. Petraitis has fogged the whole thing with not accurate information, he thought Mr. Petraitis was better than this, and that Town Government is supposed to take care of its residents. Mr. Petraitis tried speaking, Bruce requested two minutes, Mr. Petraitis said if Bruce had new information to bring to the Board he could speak. Bruce said the letter is not accurate, Mr. Petraitis said it is accurate and the issue is closed. Bruce said no it's not, he's not done. Mr. Petraitis said the Board is done discussing this. Bruce requested to setup a meeting with Board in September off camera, he threatened to say stuff that the Board would not want said on camera. Mr. Petraitis said if Bruce can provide new information we can talk, Bruce said he would bring the same information, stating that the Board doesn't understand the situation and that the crap provided to Bruce from 1896 is totally inaccurate and not a formal plan. Mr. Petraitis said everything exists where it's supposed to, Bruce said Mr. Petraitis is wrong and that the map showing the stormwater drainage system is inaccurate. Mr. Petraitis again said the matter is closed, Bruce said it's not. Mr. Petraitis told Bruce if he has new information he can send it to the Board, but the matter is closed at this meeting. Bruce said he is requesting an executive session with the Board, Mr. Petraitis said Bruce would need to put his request in writing and provide new information. Bruce said he didn't think so and that the truth would come out, Mr. Petraitis said the truth is already out and reiterated that the Board is done with this issue.

Amy Yanover was present and discussed a letter sent to the Board of Selectmen from their attorney regarding noise issues near their home. Mr. Petraitis said the state ordinance is quiet hours are 11pm to 7am, if the excessive noise is within those hours, she should call the police. Amy said they've done that, the people making the noise get angry and make more noise. Mr. Petraitis said he would talk to Chief Mark Smith. Amy wanted to clarify that state law covers this, Mr. Petraitis said yes. Amy said she is looking for guidance and clarification because the noise and traffic on her road has become unbearable, she wants to get direction on the businesses in her area, if they're legal businesses, and what she can do to stop the noise. Mr. Petraitis said he wasn't sure about the businesses but that noise ordinance is state wide. Amy asked what the next step is, Mr. Petraitis said he would talk to the Chief. Amy asked whose role it is to enforce business operations according to business certificate, Mr. Petraitis said he's pretty

sure it's the police, but if they're operating outside of their license that would be the Zoning Enforcement Officer. He asked what businesses were in her area, she said wood, cord wood, dumpster storage, which are on the property illegally. Amy said there are four businesses operating out of the sand pit and that the pit is supposed to be locked. Bill King said that conservation laws are out of step with the current times, he's not sure the property owner knows what's going on in the pit. Mr. Petraitis said he would reach out to various enforcement officers and see what can be done.

Announcements:

Mr. Petraitis read an announcement that the Special Town Election and State Primary Election will take place Tuesday, September 6, 2022. Polling location is the Senior Center from 7am to 8pm.

Mr. Tripp read the rules for the rail trail, he's having signs put up along the rail trail. He also said the trail is basically finished, grants have been applied for and they could use some more volunteers.

Mr. Tripp said he spoke with the new Superintendent at the school and he seems receptive to getting help, Mr. Tripp is hoping Scott at the Highway department can repair the school's dump truck. Scott has already resurrected 3 trucks and two more are being worked on.

At 6:42PM, there being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre