

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp and Brooke Canada were all present.

Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 8/9 and 8/9 executive session. So voted.

Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants- Payroll # 8 for \$358,231.36, General # 1015 (perm borrowing) for \$1,514,748.11, and School # 1014 for \$42,264.08 and General # 1016 for \$265,727.58. So voted.

Financial: Reserve Fund Request-Finance Committee requested \$163.00 from Reserve Fund to pay for membership to the Association of Town Finance Committees. Mr. Petraitis explained that we used to be a member but stopped because of budget constraints. He said the membership is well worth it and comes with many benefits. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

New Business:

Appointment: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve Dennis Kelley as a member to the Local Cultural Council. So voted. All agreed he will be a wonderful asset to the council.

Mr. Petraitis motioned to amend John Tripp's appointment to NBHelps as liaison, to be appointed as ex-officio, Mrs. Canada seconded the motion. So voted.

State Election Warrant: Mr. Petraitis, Mr. Tripp, and Mrs. Canada took turns reading the State Election Warrant. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant for the 2022 State Election. So voted.

Accept MGL c41, s 110A: Mr. Tripp read a letter from the Town Clerk asking the Board to accept MGL c41, s 110a-which states if voter registration falls on Saturday or a holiday it would move to the business day beforehand. Mrs. Canada read MGL c41, s110A and said it's important to keep the Tuesday night hours. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept MGL c41, s 110A. So voted.

Change Application to Serve Form: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to change the Application to Serve on a Board or Committee by adding a line for the Board or Committee Chair to sign. So voted. Mr. Tripp noted that anyone wishing to be appointed to a board or committee should attend the Selectmen's meeting for appointment.

Police Reports: Mr. Tripp read the Police reports for July, Mrs. Canada read the reports for August, and Mr. Petraitis read the reports for September. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to accept the Police Reports for July, August and September. So voted.

Traffic Safety Grant Signature Authorization: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the grant paperwork. So voted.

Social Media Policy: Mrs. Canada added suggestions to the proposed Social Media Policy, some of the information was outdated and she felt it was important to have more than one administrator on town

social media sites, as well as adding something about minors being photographed. Mr. Petraitis said we would review the policy and vote on it in two weeks.

Public Comment:

Salvatore Branciforte asked about using his wagon train for Trick or Treat and eventually for more events. Mr. Petraitis asked what he would be pulling the wagon with, Sal said a tractor. Mr. Petraitis said there are some issues with that; liability and if we allow one person to do it, everyone else can too. Sal said he would have people sign a waiver, Mr. Petraitis said he's not sure that would work, in some instances, regardless of a waiver, people can still sue.

Mr. Petraitis said he would entertain a motion to approve Sal Branciforte's train, discussion: Mr. Tripp said we don't know the insurance ramifications. If we approve for Sal other people could start asking to do the same. Mr. Tripp said he's looking out for the Town, we could ask Town Counsel or Insurance about it. Mrs. Canada asked about load limit, Mr. Tripp asked about inspections. Sal wondered what the difference between him doing this and the school doing it. Ashley explained that when the school has a function the sponsor or host has to provide liability insurance. Mr. Petraitis said if Sal has liability insurance that could be different. He also said the school is a different elected body and the Board of Selectmen has no control. All in favor? Mr. Tripp said no, he'd rather get more information. All board members voted no, not in favor. So voted.

Sal asked if he got liability insurance for that specific event could he do it? Mr. Petraitis said he didn't see why not, but it is different carting your own child around vs. others, we are trying to protect you, Sal, and the Town.

Brandon Avery said the deadline for Local Cultural Grants is the 17th and that the Playground Committee could apply to bring back the laser show, it's a simple form. Sal asked where to get it, Brandon said the town's website.

Brandon said the upcoming Rail Trail walk could include an exploration of the new little park off Brickyard Road, and he would like to get something posted to Facebook about it.

Mr. Tripp congratulated Algoo for the opening of North Brookfield Farms, they opened on 9/29. They are a gas station and convenience store, they are looking for help in the kitchen.

Mr. Tripp said that two years ago the Board of Selectmen did a guided walk on the Rail Trail, about 30 people came and they want to do it again on 10/22/22. They will meet at the parking lot on Mill Street, behind Tasse Fuel at 10am. This is a 4 mile walk, cars will be parked along entrances to the rail trail to give rides back to lot if needed. Brandon will put additional information on Facebook.

Announcements:

Mr. Petraitis read the 2022 Election Schedule.

Mr. Petraitis read a reminder from the Town Clerk about getting sworn in and taking ethics course.

Trick or Treat will be Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30.

At 6:58PM, there being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded a motion to adjourn. So voted.

After the Board adjourned Sal Branciforte asked about a complaint/resignation letter. Mr. Petraitis said that Sal shouldn't even know about the resignation letter and if something substantial comes of it, the Board will let Sal know. Sal said that this is bullshit. Mrs. Canada explained there's a certain process the Board has to follow. Mr. Petraitis said when things come out that are not substantiated, we can't make a storm about nothing, and can't do anything with hearsay.

Sal left the meeting, Mr. Petraitis wondered if the person that submitted the resignation letter from the Playground Committee had complained to committee directly. Brooke said it was brought at a PG meeting that she attended. Mr. Petraitis asked Ashley get copies of those minutes. Mr. Petraitis said the biggest issue is no communication within the committee, there were issues with posting meetings. Mr. Petraitis asked Ashley to get information from the Town Clerk regarding resignation letters and executive sessions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre