

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp, and Brooke Canada present.

Lisa Taylor and Sheila Buzzell were present to discuss a software change from Point to QDS. Lisa explained that as of July 1, 2023 point software will be changing over to QDS. The Assessors, Water Department, and Town Collector all use this software. Lisa pays \$6,900 a year for license and support, Water and Assessors pay less. She explained that Point was bought out by QDS out of Connecticut, they have different tax laws than Massachusetts. 4 years ago QDS came into Oakham, they didn't have a specific product for Massachusetts, there were many glitches. By December 31, 2022 we have to commit to moving forward with QDS for FY 24, or find a new software. Mr. Tripp asked if QDS was tuned into MA now, Sheila said they are trying. Lisa said there is other software available, but it's very expensive. Lisa said that her and Kelly agree they want to try to transition before the end of FY 23. QDS is offering North Brookfield a deal to transition all 3 departments, it will be \$3,400.00. Lisa needs to find out when the bill will be due, and she feels Point was ingenuous because they were billed July 1 for a full year, but knew they were being bought out by QDS. Lisa is going to reach out to QDS to get more specific answers and said they are guaranteeing our rate for 3 years, but noted they are not responsive in Oakham when there are issues. Lisa and Sheila said they'd ask other Towns about their software.

NBEMA-Mr. Petraitis said other Towns do not have Police officers as their director. Mrs. Canada said it sounds like Anne Adams really wants to take on the role, no Police officer has stated they want it. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Anne Adams at NBEMA Director for a 6-month period, pending review. So voted. Ashley will invite Anne to attend next week's meeting to announce her appointment and discuss the interim status.

Town Common land issue: Mrs. Canada wondered if we could offer to sell encroaching neighbors to the Town Common the land they've usurped. Mr. Petraitis said that could set a precedent, we haven't offered that to others. We could go on a case-by-case basis, with the Railroad property encroachment issues we offered leases. Mr. Petraitis doesn't think we can lease Town Common property and there are plans to build a track but the neighbors have encroached to a point that would not allow a track. Mr. Tripp said he took Mrs. Canada to the common to check out the situation. Mr. Petraitis said that John Couture is also dealing with this issue. Mr. Petraitis entertained a motion to have residents remove all buildings, debris, personal property, and plantings from Town Common property, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Tripp said this could set a precedent, we have an issue on Nursery Ave where a resident built a stone wall on town property and blocked the sidewalk (enclosed behind the wall). Mrs. Canada said that as far as the Common goes, it looks like a permit was approved to build a shed on town property due to a bad survey. Mr. Petraitis said that's true, but it doesn't make it right. Mrs. Canada feels it would be more respectful to give the owners the option of removing items or purchasing the land. Ashley asked if we were legally allowed to sell that property, Mr. Petraitis asked her to look into it. Mrs. Canada reiterated that the Town gave permission for at least one building on Town property, Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Tripp both said the information was based on a bad survey. Mr. Petraitis said the surveyor measured incorrectly, not counting links/rods/chains, and that all

stake and points are still there. There was more discussion about rebuilding the track on the common, Mr. Tripp stated the privately-owned trees are in the way unless you move the swing sets, which will be a lot of work. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to table this vote until we get more information from Town Counsel regarding the sale or lease of that land. So voted.

#### Social Media Policy:

Mrs. Canada provided her edits in red, and Chris Marinin assisted with edits in green. The policy was discussed and a few changes made. The Board agreed that any major changes to the policy would require a new signature from the employee or board or committee member. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the Social Media Policy as written. So voted.

#### Tree work at Water Department:

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to have tree work done at the Water Department to harvest and remove trees for safety purposes. So voted. Mrs. Canada checked with Conservation and they need to be made aware of which trees, what the prices look like and would need a plan in writing. Mr. Tripp agreed that a plan would need to be made, Mrs. Canada wants to ensure it will be detailed. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to amend the motion to get proposals for harvesting trees at the water department. So voted.

Mr. Tripp brought an electric bill for a street light he's been paying for and asked that it be included with the Town's Street Light bill. He feels because it's at an intersection and close to the center of Town it should be part of the Town's Street Lighting bill. Mr. Tripp recused himself from voting on the matter. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to add this street light to the Town's bill. So voted.

At 8:10PM, there being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to enter into executive session for reason 1, to discuss complaints about a public officer. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes; Canada, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis noted we would exit executive session only to adjourn.

At 8:21PM the Board exited executive session. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre