

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at the Police Department. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp, and Brooke Canada present.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 12/15/22 executive session. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: General # 1032 for \$85,030.97, School # 1031 for \$61,715.94, and Payroll # 13 for \$374,949.25. So voted.

Old Business: Brandon Avery appointment to DDC: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to appoint Brandon Avery to Downtown Development Committee, discussion: Mr. Tripp said he still has an issue with the DDC, Mrs. Canada said we determined the issue was directly with BSC Group. Mr. Tripp said he's not sure how long the DDC will be around, Mrs. Canada didn't see any reason to not appoint Brandon. Mr. Petraitis asked for an update, Mrs. Canada said BSC Group sent a contract and we need to take next steps, Brandon agreed we need to move forward so we can apply for the next phase of grants. Mr. Petraitis asked if the grants are facilitated by the state, Brandon said yes. Mrs. Canada said we have \$600,000.00 in grants secured for this project, and that DDC put in a lot of work to get those funds. Brandon said that he being on the Planning Board would be a good rep for DDC. Mr. Petraitis said a lot depends on how we move forward, we don't yet have a signed contract and he's not sure if a new member should be appointed yet. He suggested we table the appointment until everything is figured out with BSC Group. Mrs. Canada asked if we are telling the DDC they can't work on things, they are planning on doing a few studies and creating a local business association. Mr. Tripp said they can't spend town money, they are an advisory committee, the DDC went back and forth with BSC Group with no contract in place, they were not advising us at that time. Mrs. Canada said DDC was not getting advice from anyone either. Mr. Petraitis said they would table the appointment for now and revisit when the contract is settled.

New Business:

Chris Dunphy from CMPRC was in to discuss CDBG grants: He said we are working under 3 years of grants, FY 19, FY 20, and FY 21. FY 19 is just about done, that involved West Side Infrastructure Study and housing rehab. The rehab portion is slow, we contemplated moving clients to another fiscal year, but we would be losing money. He is asking us to request a 6 month extension on this grant. Mr. Tripp asked if there was one project left, Chris said yes and its best to ask for extension. Mr. Petraitis asked how many rehab projects for North Brookfield, Chris said about a dozen. Mr. Tripp asked about other towns, Chris said the FY20 grant involves Brookfield housing rehab, there's not a lot of movement there due to lack of contractors and supplies but things are starting to move forward. FY20 grant involved housing rehab and NB Senior Center renovations. For FY 21 we shifted gears, did not include housing rehab, just concentrated on the West Side Infrastructure Study. Mt Pleasant Street and surrounding area need a new water main. The environmental review is done, now they move on to requirements. The design should be done by Spring, bids will go out late Spring, it should move quickly after that if supplies and materials are available. Mr. Tripp thought the whole street was getting done, Chris said Phase 1 will be the water main replacement, phase 2, next fiscal year, will be completing the street.

Chris said for the FY20 grant for the Senior Center renovations the bids came back ridiculously high, they thought it would be about \$220,000.00 for roof, flooring, new handicap entry, but they came in at around \$350,000.00. How we can move forward, Chris thought originally combining all aspects into one project would be best, but now he thinks we should separate them out and concentrate on the roof. He suggests we bid just the roof and save the flooring as alternative if there's money left in the budget. He said we could do a separate bid for the entryway; we should be able to get local contractors as it will be a lower threshold of requirements for that project. Mr. Tripp asked about the floors, Chris said there would be asbestos abatement involved which increases the cost significantly. We have about \$150,000.00 from CDBG funds and \$50,000.00 from ARPA for these projects (ARPA monies for new entryway). Mr. Petraitis agreed the roof is the first priority. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to restructure the CDBG budget and to get bids for the roof only, alternate for flooring. So voted.

FY19 extension: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to extend the FY19 CDBG grant. So voted.

CMRPC amendment: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the contract amendment with CMRPC. So voted.

Clark and Green contract-Chris explained that the contract with Clark and Green expired in June, we had already signed an updated contract but neglected to realize the time needed to be extended as well. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the Clark and Green agreement. So voted.

Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the Chapter 90 Request. So voted. Mr. Tripp noted that this is for paving on Ayer St, Brown St, Mill Rd and King Rd.

WRAP Reimbursement Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the WRAP request. So voted.

Fire Department Grants: Joe Holway was in attendance to explain 2 grants he's applying for, one for \$10,000.00 for helmets and boots, the other for \$2,000.00 for forest fire radio pouches. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the grant application for \$10,000.00. So voted. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to sign the grant application for \$2,000.00. So voted.

School Committee Appointment: Mr. Petraitis stated the Board received a letter from School Committee Chair, Tim Canada, recommending Tonya Matthews as school committee member. Mr. Petraitis asked Tonya to tell the Board about herself. Tonya said she's a parent to 5 children, 2 are younger and still in school, she's very involved in their education. She says she's an advocate for her children and their learning environment. She has experience as a foster parent for special needs children and she thinks she can help. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Tonya Matthews to School Committee. So voted. Mr. Petraitis thanked Tonya and reminded her that she will only be appointed until the next election.

Jamie Gilman and Michael Hinkley were present to discuss mountain bike trails in Town. Jamie said he's a North Brookfield resident and has to drive 30 min outside town to access trails. He saw the Master Plan and sees that more trails are wanted in North Brookfield. The little trails we have in town are heavily trafficked. Jamie and Michael want to join the Town Forest Park, help cleanup and make trails.

They have been looking at town-owned property to see what's available for trails, he noted North Brookfield has a shortage of open space. He's got a friend in Barre that did a great job on private and public property creating multi-use trails for hiking, biking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. NB's open space plots are spaced well apart. He said with the Ware River Water Shed access being restricted there's a need and desire for more trails in the area. Jamie asked for advice from the Board. Mr. Petraitis asked if he's looking to make trails on town-owned open space, Jamie said yes but he needs more details on the land, some are conservation, some are forest. Mr. Petraitis said he's not against the idea. Jamie said typically they'd survey the area, flag where they want the trails and then get town-approval. Mr. Petraitis said as long as there's no conservation issues he's ok with that plan. Mr. Tripp said parking may be an issue. Brandon Avery said that he's on conservation and would like them to come to a meeting. Mr. Petraitis said the abutters may want input as well.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said Mass trail grants are due in February, he attended a forum and there's a lot of money available, we could apply to some for maintenance and or equipment to maintain the rail trail. Mr. Tripp thanked Brandon.

Mr. Tripp thanked the Algoo family for bringing North Brookfield Farms to town, they had their grand opening today, there was free giveaways, ribbon cutting, Santa Claus was there, Rep Donnie Berthiaume and representatives from the Quaboag Current and New Leader.

There being no further business, at 6:54PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre