

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis and Brooke Canada were present.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 1/10/23, 12/20/22, and 12/16/22 exec session. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant # 1035 for \$38,912.31, CDBG Warrant # 1036 for \$12,312.03, Insurance Reimbursement Warrant # 1037 for \$6,989.63, General Warrant # 1038 for \$290,817.26, and Payroll Warrant # 15 for \$326,063.70. So voted.

New Business:

School Committee Appointment: Mr. Petraitis read a letter from School Committee Chair Tim Canada recommending John Magario to be appointed to the School Committee. John Magario introduced himself and stated he's lived in Town since 2006, his children are in the school system, he thinks good education is important, he wants to be involved and help support families in Town. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint John Magario to the School Committee. So voted. Mr. Petraitis noted that John's appointment would only be until the May Town Election, if he wants to continue to serve he will need to get nomination papers.

Town Forest Park Appointment: Mr. Petraitis remembered that Jamie Gilman and Michael Hinkley were at a meeting couple weeks ago discussing multi-use trails in Town. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint both Jamie Gilman and Michael Hinkley to the Town Forest Park Committee. So voted.

PVPC Lien Discharge: Mrs. Canada read a letter from PVPC requesting the Board approve the discharge of rehab liens. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the lien discharges. So voted.

Accept Resignation: Mr. Petraitis read a resignation letter from Todd Taylor at the Highway Department. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the resignation. So voted. Mr. Petraitis thanked Todd for his many years of service.

Fire Reports: Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Fire Chief Joe Holway, Mrs. Canada read the reports from October, November, and December of 2022. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the fire reports for October, November, and December of 2022. So voted.

Payoff Letter CMRPC: Mr. Petraitis read a letter drafted by CMRPC for a payoff of a grant through the CDBG Housing Rehab program. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted.

Discussion with Chief Smith re: Police Cruisers and STM: Mr. Petraitis explained the Police Department is looking to purchase two new cruisers, we'll need to have a Special Town Meeting to fund this.

Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to set the Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:00PM at the North Brookfield Police Department. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis read the Special Town Meeting Warrant containing two articles. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the Warrant. Discussion: Mr. Petraitis explained that Article 1 will be to rescind the money transferred from Free Cash to purchase diesel fuel and update the tank because we won't be moving the fuel storage tank, we can't get a free and clear title on it. Article 2 will be to fund the purchase of two police cruisers. He said it's been a while since we purchased cruisers, we can get a 2022 model now at a discounted rate. Chief Mark Smith said that the Police Department is starting to slide back with bad equipment, he went to a dealership to get pricing and the salesperson was able to get him a deal on two demo models and explained that 2023 models will go up \$8,000.00 per vehicle. Chief Mark Smith provided a spreadsheet to the Board showing the savings. With the discounted rate, and purchasing outright vs. leasing the Town will be saving about \$39,000.00. Chief Smith plans to repurpose one of his current vehicles into an Animal Control Officer vehicle, not an emergency vehicle, as it is having electrical issues and needs to be jump started. The dealership may give us money if we can trade in another vehicle. Chief Smith said this has been on his Capital Improvement list and he wants to start rotation of replacing vehicles, we can't have all old cruisers. All in favor of the motion? Aye. Aye. So voted.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said that Jamie Gilman came to a Conservation meeting and the two of them went out to visit an area off Donovan Rd, they are planning a site visit with Conservation. Brandon says there's a couple of stream crossings they'll need to look at, but if Conservation approves they will come back to the Board of Selectmen with a plan. Brandon invited the Board to join on the site visit. Brandon said it's a nice piece of property, wooded, and he did speak with a few neighbors who liked the idea of multi-use trails. Jamie said the area offers what North Brookfield is and was-stonewalls, fields, woods, and it could be a gem, right now it is hidden. Jamie and Brandon cleaned up trash during their visit. Brandon said the area is about 28 acres and was not on his radar until Jamie pointed it out. Jamie said he's hoping the parking lot at the new Highway property (formerly Huck's) would be available for parking.

There being no further business, at 6:27PM, Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre