

Minutes from the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03pm on May 12th 2020 at the Senior Center. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 5/5. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll #22 for \$327,428.20, School Expenses #1053 for \$86,312.11 and General Expenses #1054 for \$249,431.40. So voted.

Financial: Account request to transfer money between accounts. Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Old Business: Lenard Contract will be signed next week.

Jason Benoit submitted a request to extend Highway bids for one more year, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Mr. Kiley thanks Jim Caldwell for having shields made for the voting booth.

Reopening the Town Offices: The public will be required to wear masks when entering any town building, employees will be required to wear masks when interacting with the public and each other. Mr. Tripp asked about hand sanitizer. Tara Hayes said she looked for some but it was between two and three hundred dollars. Karen Kiley stated she could get a case of 12 for \$96. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to reopen the Town Offices on May 18th. So voted.

Dale stated the Town Election will be held June 1st at the Senior Center. You can vote early by mail in or absentee ballot. There is a link on the website with more information. On June 5th we will hold the Annual and Special Town meeting. The Town Clerk, Board of Health, and Moderator have gone over safety protocols. NBEMA will be overseeing the meeting, families who live in the same household can sit together, others will be separated.

Mr. Kiley, Mr. Petraitis, and Mr. Tripp read through the articles for the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting. These warrants will be posted at the Town Offices, Police Department, Library, Post Office and on the Town's website.

New Business:

Jason Benoit (Highway Superintendent) was in to discuss his mechanic. The mechanic was offered a new job with a significant pay increase. Jason wants to negotiate a pay raise on his behalf. Jason stated that Scott is a very good mechanic, he's versatile and can do electronic work, rebuild parts and uses his own machine shop at home. Mr. Petraitis asked if this should be discussed in executive session, Mr. Kiley said it didn't have to be, Jason Benoit agreed he doesn't mind speaking about it in open session. Jason said Scott doesn't want to leave the town job. Dale said he agrees that Scott is a huge asset to Town but because Highway is part of the Union he can't give a pay raise without renegotiating the contract for all the other employees. Jason said we can send an amendment to the contract, and he's polled the other employees, they all agree they don't want Scott to leave and they will not use his raise as an opportunity to renegotiate their own pay. Jason gave the Board a breakdown of all the money the Town has saved

by having Scott as a mechanic. Scott has not only saved money for Highway, but for the Fire Department and School as well. Jason said Scott is asking for a \$5.00 per hour increase. Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Tripp both agreed they'd be comfortable giving the raise. Mr. Kiley agreed but said the other Highway employees will have to sign a memorandum of understanding stating they will not reopen union negotiations. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a \$10,000 a year raise, with the condition of the signed memo by the other union members. So voted.

Announcements:

Mr. Tripp thanks Tara and Brian Hayes for the donation of the new Christmas Tree in the center of Town.

Bates Observatory has been taken halfway down, the bricks are being saved for use in other projects, or possibly sold as a fundraiser at a later date.

Mr. Tripp has an appointment with a brick mason to see if further repair can be done to the observatory before the roof is installed.

The ADA park bench is almost paid for with donations.

The Rail Trail is being used quite a bit.

There being no further business, at 6:57 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre