

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting was called to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll #4 for \$289,781.93, #1006 School for \$43,437.79, #1007 General for \$238,776.29 and #1008 Central Mass. Regional Planning for \$12,993.59. So voted.

### Financial Items:

- a. CMRPC Invoices: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve CMRPC invoice #6, #6 S, and Lenard Engineering. So voted. (Note: this is all money through the CDBG Grant program)
- b. Cares Act Requests: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the Cares Act Fund Requests for the School in the amounts of \$1085.00 and \$225.00.
- c. Fuss & O'Neil: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the Fuss & O'Neil reimbursement request for \$17,540.00 from massDOT. So voted.

### Old Business:

- a. Highway Fuel Bid: Dale read the fuel bid request document provided by the highway department that states "Price to be based on Boston low tank car price at close of market on June 24, 2020. Price at time of delivery shall be adjusted either upward or downward to reflect any change in base price in effect at that time." Mr. Petraitis asked about the adjustment clause, Jason Benoit stated that they won't put that clause directly in the bid document, but that's its stated in the bid request. He stated every surrounding town has jumped on these prices because they are very low. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the fuel bids for R.J McDonald and Fountain & Sons Fuel Co. So voted.

### New Business:

- a. PVPC Rehab contract and Contact Amendment #2 for Con Warren Rd property. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the PVPC contract for a house on Sunset Drive. So moved. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Contract Amendment #2 for a home on Con Warren Rd. So voted.
- b. Jason Benoit: Highway Mechanic and Asst Tree Warden. Jason Benoit stated that the Union hasn't responded to the Highway's request to create a new position and is asking the BOS to move forward. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the creation of Head Mechanic position. So voted. Patrick Gustafson has requested to be assistant tree warden and Jason Benoit supports the request. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Patrick Gustafson to Assistant Tree Warden. So voted. Mr. Kiley noted that Patrick has done incredible work on the Rail Trail.
- c. Bruce Arnold: Storm Water Issue. Bruce gave the BOS a binder with information regarding the flooding in his basement. Bruce thanked the Board and asked how they propose to fix the issue of storm water draining into his basement. He thanked the NB Fire Department for pumping his basement regularly, if we get one inch of rain his basement floods. Bruce stated that a previous Highway Superintendent (Ray) tried to temporarily fix the problem by doing some work on the

culvert but it didn't last. Bruce has received nothing official as to how the Town plans to fix this issue. Flooding effects his property value, if it rains 1 inch he has to pump 67 gallons of water out of his basement and this takes 4 hours. Bruce was told it was an issue with an old private well but he states that's not the case, it's storm water that runs downhill. He's had 6 foot sinkholes on his property and requested an official hydrology report from Jason Benoit. Mr. Kiley stated that the BOS would look into the issue and give him an answer at their next meeting (in two weeks), Bruce will be put on the next agenda.

d. Pole Hearings x4:

- a. Brookfield Road-2 JO Poles. Mr. Kiley asked if any abutters were present. Mike Borelli asked what a JO pole was, Nat Grid rep explained that it means "Jointly Owned" between National Grid and Verizon. Mike asked why they were adding the pole. Nat Grid rep explained it's a support pole because of a private solar farm being installed in Town. They have to "beef" up the supports because of the heavier cables. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve 2 JO poles on Brookfield Rd. So voted.
  - b. Donovan Road-1 SO pole. This is also a support pole in relation to the solar farm. Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve 1 SO pole on Donovan Rd. So voted.
  - c. New Braintree Road-1 SO pole. This pole is for a second service to a new garage. The garage is down a steep slope and the current pole is on the opposite side of the road. An abutter questioned the reason for the pole, Nat Grid rep stated if they ran electricity directly it would not give enough clearance for vehicles. Rep also stated there would be a down anchor on existing pole. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve 1 SO pole on New Braintree Rd. So voted.
  - d. West Brookfield Road-1 JO pole. This is also a support midspan pole. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve 1 JO pole on West Brookfield Rd. So voted.
- e. Fitzgerald Pucci presented his petition to ask committees and boards in Town to use ZOOM. Mr. Pucci made a speech, he stated he is representing 176 people that signed a virtual petition for public meetings to use ZOOM or other video chat software. He stated he'd like to see the meetings use ZOOM (or comparable software), have a space of time to get setup, appoint a video savvy person to help and to make the link available online. He stated he was thankful for all the BOS does and thanked them for their time. Mr. Kiley stated that the Board would take it under advisement. Tashina Holmes added a word of support and stated a lot of people can't participate in public meetings because of kids, illness, ect. Tashina said ALL public meetings should be held via video chat, especially Town Meetings. Mr. Kiley stated that when the BOS meet they don't have to allow public comment, it is not an absolute law, but they prefer to let the public comment. Town Meetings are run by the moderator, not the BOS, moderator has absolute control at Town Meeting. Tashina asked why they can't be on ZOOM, Fitzgerald stated that all the surrounding towns use ZOOM for all of their public and Town Meetings.
- f. Liquor License Request: Brookfield Orchards requested several days for one-day liquor licenses through the Fall. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the one-day liquor license request. So voted.

- g. Resolution: The BOS read a resolution (available on the town's website) stating that the Selectmen do not authorize North Brookfield Police to enforce any guidelines, orders or rules that are not either duly enacted statutes of the Commonwealth or by-laws of the Town, until the Board of Health fully complies with Mass Gen. L. CH. 111 SS104 and provides the Selectmen, Police Chief and Fire Chief with the location of COVID-19 infections within Town. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adopt this resolution. So voted.
- h. Appointments: Three people volunteered to serve on the Beach Committee, Joseph Jablonski, Michelle Thayer, and Tashina Holmes. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint all three volunteers to the Beach Committee. So voted. Joe, Michelle, and Tashina will need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk before serving.

At 6:46PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre