

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at the Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 2/2 and 2/17. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the warrants as follows; Payroll warrant # 18 for \$344,662.42, School warrant # 1044 for \$123,935.23, and General warrant # 1045 for 290,346.97. So voted.

CARES fund request: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to approve the following cares act request: School request for \$624.97 for Speech Therapy, Library request for \$149 for ZOOM, and \$650 for an air purifier, Senior Center request for \$3,248 for computers, and Fire Department request for \$1813.58 for Turnout gear repair. So voted.

Mr. Kiley said that Vaccine Clinics are ramping up, as of Saturday North Brookfield had 1 active case, today there are 5. Any positive test stays on the list for 10 days. Trevor Brusco from the Board of Health deserves a lot of credit for his hard work on the clinics and vaccinations. Mr. Petraitis echoed these sentiments and said Trevor has been putting in a ton of effort to keep people updated on the vaccines. Mr. Kiley reminded the residents of Town to please answer the phone calls and emails from the Board of Health. Mr. Tripp asked where the closest place to get a vaccine, Mr. Kiley said Harrington Hospital in Southbridge. Mr. Tripp asked if we'd get a clinic out here, Mr. Kiley said that Trevor is trying but DPH keeps changing their plans.

Salem Fund approval: The Salem Estate left money to the North Brookfield Emergency Services; they've submitted an insurance bill. Mr. Petraitis, moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request to be paid out of the gift fund. So voted.

Jason Petraitis spoke about the Planning Board hearing regarding the new gas station on North Main Street. At the hearing residents were complaining about traffic on Main Street, specifically delivery trucks. Mr. Petraitis stated this won't be an issue for the gas station, as those deliveries will not be off street. As far as deliveries to the package store, the area behind the store is privately owned. The Board of Selectmen cannot force a business owner to allow deliveries, but they hope an agreement can be made between the business owner and property owner. To some degree, we have to deal with the delivery trucks on North Main, if we want to have business in that area. Another issue is the employees of the store fronts and Town Offices parking on Main Street. Maybe the employees can park on side streets. Cuddy Insurance has complained of people being parking in front of their business for entire days, there is a 2-hour limit on those spots.

Mr. Tripp suggested an unloading zone on the corner of Maple Street and North Main, across from Jim's Pizza. Jason Benoit and Chief Mark Smith both agreed it was a good idea. Signs will need to be ordered, painting will need to be done, and a slab will need to be removed to create a ramp, which will also be better for handicap accessibility. Ashley will send a letter to businesses along North Main asking their employees to park in front of the Town House, and town employees will park in designated spots on School Street. Cuddy will be given two spots in front of their business for customer parking. Discussion

on metered parking in the lot next to the Police Department also took place, this will help connect the Playground to the Rail Trail.

Jason Petraitis spoke about a rotary on Main Street, or creating a one-way traffic pattern, up Main Street, down School/Grove (left up School, left up Grove to get back to Main). Mr. Tripp stated he didn't like the idea, Mr. Kiley likes the concept but the gas station is counting on having traffic in both directions. Left hand turns into the angled parking on North Main was discussed. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to have the Police Department enforce no left-hand turn into, or pulling out of, the angled parking spots on North Main Street. So voted.

The Insurance Advisory Committee gave a letter of recommendation to continue to use Fallon for the health insurance. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the recommendation. So voted.

The Local Cultural Council received a grant, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the contract and add Ashley Barre as an authorized signor. So voted.

The Senior Center received a grant for hygienic supplies, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the grant. So voted.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said there is a new book about Rufus Putnam, the author offered to do a book signing in Town. Tara Hayes read a blurb from the author regarding North Brookfield and Brandon Avery. Brandon said this is why it's valuable to have the Historical Museum in Town. However, with the new owners of the building there could be issues. There is potentially a bakery opening upstairs and they would have access to the museum. Jason Petraitis suggested the bottom floor of the Town House, where the Police Station used to be. The whole building may need to have a sprinkler system installed. Ashley will try to get more information.

Opening of Town Offices: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to open the Town Offices, following state guidelines, tomorrow morning, March 3, 2021. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis stated that there are people that want to donate money to get the Police a new boat. There is a resident on Lake Lashaway that will let the PD use their dock. Current boat is rotted.

At 7:06 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into executive session, exemption 2-contract negotiations. So voted. The Board will exit executive session only to adjourn. Dale Kiley; yes, Jason Petraitis; yes, John Tripp; yes.

At 7:47 PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre