

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:00PM at the North Brookfield Police Department. 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 2/16/21. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll #20 for \$333,531.12, School #1049 for \$127,126.16 and General # 1050 for \$302,095.76. So voted.

### Financial:

Reserve Fund request: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a reserve fund request from the Town Clerk, for postage, in the amount of \$1000.00. So voted.

### Spending request:

Collector is requesting to spend \$3000.00 for postage (to send out real estate tax bills) and \$1000.00 for advertising. Mr. Kiley asked Ashley to get more information on dates.

Water requested to spend funds for postage, they are an enterprise fund so the freeze doesn't apply.

Rail Trail: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve a request to pay an invoice for \$4,200.00 for metal poles to keep ATV's off the rail trail. So voted.

Highway: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve an invoice to pay for alarm installation at Highway department. So voted.

Town Beach Committee: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the Beach Committee to spend money on portable toilets, approximately \$250/month. So voted.

### New Business:

Friends of the Town House were present and Jim Buzzell thanked the Board of Selectmen for allowing them to do their presentation at the BOS meeting. The Friends of the Town House have been meeting often and have a vision for the Town House. They need the support of the Town. They plan to work with the Downtown Development Committee to preserve and restore the Town House. They've received help from many organizations, have built a new website and established new partnerships. There was a feasibility study done, Jim Buzzell took everyone through the study. ROAR program-Rural Opportunities through Art and Restoration-the Friends are trying to use this program to attract regional and national attention, they want to have a lot of activities in the building including, but not limited to, local artists, painting, woodworking, robotics, ect. Eva Brown stated that they've been applying for grants, Mass Cultural Council awarded them the feasibility study which will open them up to more grants. Eva also spoke about the TAP program that will take place in late Spring/early Summer, in which 5-8 experts will come to North Brookfield to research and then present their findings and recommendations. Maureen Wesolaski presented information on the Friend's supporters and said they've done a lot of work and are ready to move forward. Mr. Kiley asked about parking, that needs to be resolved, metered parking behind Police Department could be an option. Mr. Tripp spoke about his efforts, along with Patrick

Gustafson, Jack McClintock, and Brandon Avery, to paint the Town House. Mr. Tripp had also secured help from the Sheriff's department for about 7 weeks of work in the Summer of 2019. The building still needs to be scraped before further painting can be done. Mr. Kiley asked if the Friends had spoken with the Historical Commission, Eva Brown said she spoke with John Couture who indicated there was some wiggle room.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Brian Hayes to the Town Beach Committee. So voted.

MA State Police Service request: National Grid submitted a proposal and service request to install electrical equipment to support a radio tower for the MA State Police at the Water Department. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the proposal. So voted.

Chapter 90 reimbursement: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve two chapter 90 requests for \$53,998.58, and \$45,759.58 to make payments on the sweeper and dump truck. So voted.

Announcements: Water shut offs will begin soon, please pay your bill as soon as possible to avoid shut off and further fees.

Mr. Kiley announced that the Tax Collector have been receiving threatening phone calls, mail, and emails. If you are late on your payment, it is not her fault.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery brought some information in about the Wilcott's and wanted to point it out to Mr. Tripp as he is clearing an area on the rail trail, Brandon thinks it could be called Wilcott Woods.

At 6:42 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiations, exemption number 2. The Board will only exit executive session to adjourn. So voted. Dale Kiley; yes, Jason Petraitis; yes, John Tripp; yes.

At 7:27 PM there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to exit executive session and adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre