

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the North Brookfield Police Department. 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 #12 \$347,639.03, CDBG# 1053 \$22,098.82, General # 1054 \$51,906.29, School # 1052 \$33,744.22. So voted.

### New Business:

Mark Sawyer-new hire for Police Department. Chief Mark Smith introduced Mark Sawyer, he will be a full-time officer in Town, he is living in West Brookfield and comes highly recommended. There were two other candidates and the team unanimously recommends Mark Sawyer. He's been through a very thorough background check. Mr. Kiley stated that Chief Mark Smith hasn't steered us wrong and asked Mark to say something about himself. Mark Sawyer said he graduated from Gardner High School, he grew up on a farm in Hubbardston, but he loves the Brookfield area. He's currently working in Barre and is looking to have a more personal connection with the community. Mark Sawyer knew Chief Smith, as he was Mr. Sawyer's instructor at the academy. Mr. Kiley asked about Mark's life saving award-Mark said there was an OD during COVID, the call came from the furthest point in Town, a male party with no pulse, Mark did CPR for 8 minutes until Fire Chief showed up and administered Narcan, they were then able to get a pulse. Mr. Tripp saw that Mark plays the drums, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse, Mark said he coached and was looking to do that again. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Mark Smith to police officer starting immediately. So voted. Chief Mark Smith said he wants to do a community meet and greet soon.

Fuss & O'Neill extension-Fuss & O'Neill submitted a letter for BOS signature to request an extension from MassDOT for the Cider Mill Bridge/Coys Brook project. Due to COVID to project took longer than anticipated. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted.

Chapter 61A Release- Carl J Gustafson requested to have a small portion of land removed from 61A. A solar field was installed, Mr. Tripp explained that there were telephone poles that needed to be screened so the access road needed to be changed. Letters from Conservation and Planning Board were received approving the release. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign off on the 61A release. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be a Grand Opening at the Disc Golf course at the Town Forest Park. There is a 9 hole disc golf course, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend there will be instructors to teach the game, a tournament, it will be a family event starting in the late morning/early afternoon. Mr. Tripp and Mr. Petraitis spoke about doing some clearing at the Forest before the grand opening.

Pole Hearing-at 6:15PM Mr. Kiley opened the pole hearing for North Main Street. Mr. Petraitis read the petition to relocate on pole approximately 5 feet North. This request was submitted by a property owner to make the driveway more accessible. Mr. Tripp asked when the current pole would be removed, the representative from National Grid said that would be up to Verizon. Mr. Tripp asked if the new pole would be in the middle of the sidewalk or near the curb, the rep said near the curb. Mr. Kiley said the other pole needs to come out as soon as possible. Tina Floria, abutter, had an issue with the pole. She said the current pole was put in on April 23, 2015. It was a double pole until July of 2016, and

the holes were left throughout the Winter. Tina suggested that the pole be moved South instead of North. She showed pictures of the current parking space and explained it would be better for her family, and the property requesting the move. Tina also mentioned that when the pole was put in in 2015 it created a sink hole in their yard. Mr. Kiley said we need to put conditions in, for example no double poles and holes need to be filled immediately. Mr. Kiley asked the rep if the pole could be moved South instead of North. Rep said yes but they would need to write a new petition with the new location. There was a discussion about sink holes. Mr. Kiley said he would leave the pole hearing open for the new plan, which will be expedited. Mr. Petratis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to recess the hearing until the new plan is received. So voted.

Mr. Kiley announced that a Special and Annual Town Meetings will take place May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Elementary school. Mr. Kiley read the Articles proposed for the Special Town Meeting, there a lot of transfers. Mr. Kiley said the Regionalization Committee would be meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> and they would have their recommendation ready for the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Kiley read the Annual Town Meeting articles and explained that the budget isn't looking great. We are getting less aid from the State this year. Mr. Kiley explained Article 16-petitioned by Bruce Arnold to correct water problems on his property. Mr. Kiley said the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are not in support of this article, we were forced to place it on the warrant. According to Town Counsel we are not liable to fix personal property issues.

Jason Benoit reminded the Board about his plan to remove trees on the Water Dept property. He met with the abutters and everyone is happy with the plan. Mr. Kiley asked about paying for it, Jason said it will come out of Tree Expense account. Mr. Tripp mentioned the ice build up on Rt. 67 because of the shade, and dead trees have fallen on private property. Jason Benoit is going to mark trees to be saved, he doesn't want to clear cut everything. The Board is in agreement on this plan.

#### Public Comment:

Brandon Avery asked about Donovan Road purchase, Mr. Kiley explained that the Board met with Fran Huckins, they want the Town to purchase the property, move Highway there, Fire would take over Highway building and renovate that along with the current station. Both Fire and Highway need upgrades, this would cost the Town about 3 million dollars and get both departments in good standing, as opposed to building a new fire station which is estimated to cost 8 million dollars. The Huck's purchase would also come with some revenue for the Town as there are storage units. Brandon asked if Huck is looking to sell his business, Mr. Kiley said no, he will keep his business but find a new location.

Mr. Kiley said the Sewer project is looking good, we have a lot of grant opportunities.

#### Announcements:

The Annual Town Election will take place Monday, May 3, The Special Town Meeting will take place Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM, followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 7:30PM.

There will be a ZOOM meeting regarding the Master Plan, link is on the website.

Mr. Kiley wanted to make clear that it is election season, campaign signs are going up. It is against the law to steal the signs and the Police will take action.

Brandon Avery announced there will be a Town wide clean up on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Jason said that Highway will pick up the bags, or you can bring them to the Highway department. If trash is found with any identifying information, please bring it to the attention of the Board of Selectmen and PD.

Mr. Tripp read the rules regarding the Rail Trail. He spoke about a new picnic area he is currently cleaning up.

Additions:

Joe Holway submitted grant paperwork for signature, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the paperwork. So voted.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter executive session reason #3, to conduct collective bargaining session. The Board will exit executive session only to adjourn. So voted.

At 8:00PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre