

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at the North Brookfield 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 3/30, 3/30 exec session, and 4/6 exec session. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: School # 1068 for \$79,940.66, General # 1069 for \$132,203.95 and Payroll # 26 for \$537,661.80. So voted.

Financial Items:

Transfers:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Highway request to transfer \$2,820.16 from Highway Street painting to Highway vehicular supplies to do vehicle repairs and supplies expenditures. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Highway request to transfer \$5,553.87 from Snow and Ice Salt, \$5000.00 from Snow and Ice Sand, and \$870.43 from Snow and Ice Diesel (total \$11,423.50) to Snow and Ice Salary. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Water request to transfer \$1000.00 from Training Salary to Other Salary. So voted. Note: Budget depleted due to service, water main breaks requiring large amounts of detail coverage.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Board of Health request to transfer \$5,681.38 from Recycling Monitor Salary to Recycling Contracts to cover Casella Invoices. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Veteran's Service Officer request to transfer \$351.50 from Veteran's Other expense to Veteran's Agent Salary to pay remainder of FY 20-21. So voted.

Reserve Fund Request:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Fire request to transfer \$4,261.93 from the Reserve Fund to Fire Salary. So voted. Note: Fin Comm approved on 6/3.

New Business:

Request for Resources: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to give initial approval for NB Helps to hold a Christmas in July Tollbooth on 7/17/21. So voted. Mr. Kiley noted that Police and Board of Health must sign before final approval can be given.

Resignation: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the resignation of Brian Hayes from the Beach Committee. So voted.

Mr. Kiley said we need to talk to Danny Roman; he's been unresponsive about the Playground committee. This might be a good time to revisit the idea of forming a Parks and Recreation Committee to encompass Playground, Park, Rail Trail, Beach, Disc Golf, etc.

Amanda Bellerize and neighbors were present to discuss issue on Walker Road. Most recently a speeder ran over her husband's foot and dragged him down the street. There have been issues with speeding daily since Saturday, the speeder told Amanda that the kids shouldn't be in the road. Mr. Kiley asked Amanda if she'd talked to the Chief of Police. She spoke with Sgt. Donais, filed a police report, and one other officer said it was a good idea to make that road a dead end. Neighbors are all in support of this idea. Mr. Tripp said he drove down that road, you can't go fast. He asked which end to dead end, the end on 148 side of road. Mr. Petraitis suggested taking a ride down Walker Rd and talking to Chief Smith, Chief Holway, and Jason Benoit. Mr. Kiley said we should refer this issue to the Safety Committee. Amanda said speed limit signs were purchased and hung but they were told they can't do that. Mr. Kiley said he thinks you can, but they have to be approved by MassDOT. Mr. Kiley said it could be made into a private road but Highway won't maintain it. Enforcing the speed limit on this road could be difficult due to the low traffic. Mr. Petraitis asked how often the speeders go by, Amanda said every day. She said most people do go slow, but this particular woman is speeding on purpose. Mr. Kiley said the BOS and Safety committee will look into it and revisit the issue in two weeks.

Bruce Arnold wanted to speak about-Mr. Kiley said he wrote a letter explaining everything to Bruce (regarding Article 16 of the Annual Meeting). Bruce wanted to know who voted to send him the letter. He said he went through due process and got nothing but pushback, his desire is to appeal the decision. Mr. Kiley asked if Bruce had received a copy of Town Counsel's opinion. Bruce said he had. Mr. Kiley told Bruce that from the beginning he was told that public funds used for private use is illegal, you'll have to appeal to State Supreme Court. Bruce wanted to pick apart the letter. Mr. Kiley said that was unnecessary and that Bruce was out of order. He told Bruce to stop or he'll be removed from the meeting.

Brandon Avery wanted to talk about issues with political signs popping up on Town property, he's got a suggestion for a by-law. Mr. Kiley said 1st amendment restricts government ability to restrict speech. Town can only regulate speech in a neutral way, all or nothing, through by-law. Brandon said it's beginning to be a way of the signs and polluting the landscape. Mr. Kiley said there were no complaints when the school was putting up signs, but he does understand Brandon's point. Mr. Petraitis said people have always placed signs on Town property, it's not a reflection of the Board of Selectmen's opinions. Mr. Tripp said he had one of his signs stolen, which is theft and messing with an election. Tina Floria said her recall signs were stolen, she picked up all her election signs the night of the election. Mr. Petraitis suggested letting PD know where you're placing your signs and space them apart to not block others, and said it is a felony to steal an election sign. Tina suggested a registration fee for signs.

Mr. Petraitis spoke about a boat that the Police Department specked out. Original price was \$60,000+ but they can get it for \$34,000. There's a GoFundMe page setup, boat fits 6 people and has all kinds of neat things. People can also donate directly to the Town by writing a check, in the memo loan write "Police Boat Donation." He also said the PD desperately needs a boat, the Town doesn't have the money to purchase it, and East Brookfield will not be pitching in.

Mr. Petraitis said the Town is trying to put together a parade for July 5th, starting at the Fire Department at 10am, trying to get a bunch of fun things for the common. Mr. Kiley said Friday night, July 2nd, there

will be a laser light show. After the parade on the 5th there will be a Family Fun Day on the Common with a dunk tank and food, possibly a rock wall and other fun activities. There will be live music from 6-8.

Mr. Tripp spoke about an altercation with a couple motor bikes on the Rail Trail. Officer Churchey took their information and told them next time they are on the RT their bikes will be impounded.

Mr. Tripp showed the new gates he's been putting in on the RT and spoke about the signage. All gates are marked and if there's trouble first responders have the combo for the pad lock and get down the trail. Kim Bent suggested a gate like this could be placed at end of Walker Road instead of closing it off as a dead end.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre