

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at the North Brookfield Police Station, on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 at 6:00PM. 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 2/18. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 2/25. So voted. Mr. Kiley abstained from voting as he was not present for the 2/25 meeting.

Approval of warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Payroll warrant #18 for \$348,742.78, School Warrant #1042 for \$100,594.58 and General Fund Warrant # 1043 for \$245,003.94. So voted.

Financial items: Special Town Meeting. Mr. Kiley said we need to have a Special Town Meeting soon, Finance Committee supports giving money to the library to replace their roof, as well as get a new mower for the school. Other departments have asked about a special town meeting as well. We also need to setup Capital Stabilization accounts for the Greengold Money, and secure the first payment for the Fire Truck lease as the Greengold money will not be available by the April due date. Mr. Kiley set a date for April 7th at the Senior Center.

Mr. Tripp asked if the Greengold money was on its way, Mr. Kiley said at the last Town Meeting we couldn't setup the revolving accounts they way we wanted to. The state of Mass won't allow it, we need to setup stabilization accounts. Mr. Kiley also said we get the money throughout the year, but it needs to get certified before it's available as free cash, which should be by the November town meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting is Thursday at 6:30PM at the NB Police Department. Mr. Petraitis said that Jim Nyberg, Sewer Superintendent, is planning to attend to discuss the future upgrade.

Old Business: Ian McElwee from CMRPC was present to get signatures for the FY20 DHCD Grant application and a letter regarding the Senior Center. The letter was certifying that the Town of North Brookfield, controls and has access to the Senior Center. Mr. Kiley signed the letter. Ian also needed Mr. Kiley to sign the application cover sheet. We've done this in years past, it states that the Board of Selectmen is ok with the projects and budget. Ian also announced that Brookfield can officially come in with North Brookfield on the FY20 grant application. Mr. Kiley asked if that would affect North Brookfield. Ian stated that it is beneficial for NB because of the low-income ratio. Brookfield is rated at a 9, and NB is rated at a 7. Mr. Kiley signed the cover sheet.

New Business: James Foyle did a short presentation on North Brookfield becoming a Purple Heart Community. He handed out an example of the proclamation and timeline. This would show support to our vets and the purple heart concept. Mr. Foyle read the proclamation and suggested we have a ceremony tied in with the Memorial Day ceremony on May 24th. He said that out of the 351 towns in Mass, only 110 participate, and none in our area. The Town would have signs at the North/East/South/West entrances to Town which we could unveil on Memorial Day. The signs cost \$55.95 apiece. The Board will have to decide how to pay for the signs. Mr. Foyle will take care of ordering the signs and getting the proclamation printed at Valley Tech HS. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the suggestion to make North Brookfield a Purple Heart Community. So voted. Mr. Foyle said he'd get started on the process and keep us informed. Mr. Kiley thanked Mr. Foyle and asked if he knew how many Purple Heart recipients, we have in NB. Mr. Foyle said he knows

of 2 or 3, and he himself is one. Ashley will ask Holly Kularski, the Town's Veteran's Service Officer, for help in identifying Purple Heart recipients. We will not announce their names unless they've given us permission. Mr. Kiley thanked Mr. Foyle for his presentation, his service, and all he does for the town's Memorial Day celebrations.

Bates Observatory: Mr. Kiley stated the Bates Observatory is in an advanced state of disrepair, currently bricks are falling off the building. Mr. Foyle said someone had donated money to repair the building a while back. Mr. Kiley explained that a few years back he spoke to someone about restoring the building, and was given a price of \$178,000.00, the gift money only totaled \$92,000.00. The Town voted not to add the balance to do the restoration. Mr. Kiley thinks at this point the crown of the building should be taken down and restored to make a memorial out of it. Mr. Tripp said he had been interested in getting the building restored but he couldn't get anyone on board, so if anyone wants to talk about restoration please reach out to the Board. Mr. Foyle stated that an account to maintain the building should be setup if they move forward with restoration. The building is in very bad shape at this point. Brandon Avery said it's a shame because it is a historical site, although not listed on any historic registry, but it's in quite bad condition. Mr. Avery suggested we could get nice plaques with an image of the tower and a bit about it's history. The plaques could last 100 years. He also said he heard that the State Police are planning on putting a 60-foot tower antenna on the hill but Mr. Kiley is unaware of that plan.

Horse Pond Dam: We received a letter from DCR stating we need to prepare an Emergency Action Plan for Significant Hazard Potential.

New Business: Mr. Petraitis stated that at the last BOS meeting Brandon Avery dropped off a letter applying to become the official Town Historian. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Brandon Avery as the Town Historian. So voted. Mr. Avery said he had several people in Town ask him to become the Town Historian, as he runs the Historical museum and is on the Historical Commission.

Town Forest Park cleanup: On Saturday March 7th from 8-12 there will be volunteers cleaning up the Town Forest Park, and a few firefighters will be on hand to help burn brush. Mr. Tripp has recruited four people to help, more volunteers are welcome.

Public Comment: Mr. Avery asked about the Green Communities designation, specifically if they'd give credit for things already done (school lighting and windows). Mr. Kiely said we wouldn't be able to get reimbursed for the money, but it would look good on our application if we decide to move forward.

Solar: Mr. Tripp talked about our conference call with Symbiont regarding the solar canopy at the school, and the project at the landfill. Mr. Avery said he thinks the school committee has a meeting with Symbiont scheduled for March 24th. We want to get a start on this project as soon as possible.

Mr. Tripp said he walked the rail trail, last leg to Route 9 with our rep from the DEP on Friday. We will need to meet with East Brookfield Conservation. Mr. Kiley said he spoke with her after the walk and she thinks EB will want NB to file a notice of intent, notify abutters, and host a public hearing, before continuing work. She did state we could work on the parts of the trail that are not wetlands. Mr. Kiley asked about the cease and desist letter we received from East Brookfield Conservation regarding the clearing activities. According the DEP if the letter only had one signature from the EB Conservation Committee, the cease and desist is a temporary order until the next meeting of Conservation where all

members need to sign. Ashley is going to double check, but the Board believes there is only one signature on the paperwork, making the letter null and void.

Mr. Kiley signed paperwork from PVCP regarding rehab on a home in Town that is considered an emergency.

Mr. Kiley signed a document from our auditors, Scanlon, which states what services they provide and what the cost is, which has not gone up.

Mr. Kiley said he'd like our Town Counsel to review the pilot agreements regarding solar projects in Town, and that the Solar company would be covering the cost of legal review.

Jason Benoit, Superintendent of Highway, asked about an old vehicle that's been sitting and rotting away. He had the highway mechanic go through the vehicle, which is determined to be beyond repair. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to allow the Highway Department to scrap the vehicle. So voted.

Eric Hevy had asked about remediation at the Aztec property, Mr. Kiley said to contact Neil Thurber from AECOM to get status update on what's been done.

At 6:57PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre