

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00PM at the Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 8/3/21 executive session. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 10/18/21. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 10/26/21. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 10/26/21 executive session. So voted.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 10 for \$ 355,252.18, General # 1022 for \$350,862.29, School # 1020 for \$76,716.20, and CDBG # 1021 for \$45,476.57. So voted.

### Old Business:

Trevor Bruso from the Board of Health was in to update the Board of Selectmen on a few items.

Trevor stated the FEMA grant came through, about \$6,000 to reimburse for vaccine clinics.

The Board of Health has COVID tests available, call the Board of Health if you're unwell and they will arrange to get you a test. These tests were paid for out of CARES money.

Through a joint grant with Leicester, we have a new public health inspector that will service both Towns. Cheryl will continue to be on call for communicable diseases, other than COVID. We will be getting a new contract for her with Sutton. Contract tracing will take place through the grant with Leicester. This grant is for 3 years and covers the health inspector, 2 social workers, and some support staff. The local Boards of Health are not funded well so it's good have regional help.

Trevor said he spoke with Dale about the remaining CARES funds, and purchased some laptops, hard drives, wireless mice. He's going to put together a memo to send to Town departments.

Swale project: Trevor was told it would be prudent to wait until Spring because of the budget issues, however, Ethan looked at the ARPA funds and worked closely with CMRPC, he feels we can pay for the swales with ARPA because its storm water runoff. The DEP is mandating we hire an engineer, about \$14,000, initial estimate of total cost is \$50,000 to \$60,000. Mr. Kiley agreed to set off \$75,000 of ARPA funds for the swale project. Mr. Kiley asked Trevor to consult with the engineer and get his opinion on when to bid.

### New Business:

PVPC Discharge of Lien: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to execute the discharge of lien. So voted.

Clark and Green Agreement: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the agreement. So voted.

Senior Center: Mr. Petraitis discussed an issue at the Senior Center. The Water main is leaking into the neighbor's yard. Jamie Flamand and Eddy Thibault discussed changing access to Senior Center to inside of building. Jamie Flamand, Jason Benoit, and Eddy Thibault will work together to correct the issue. Troy

Allen said he'd look at it as well. The Assistant Plumbing inspector can do the inspection. Mr. Kiley agreed and Mr. Tripp stated the Jason Benoit said he could do it; he'll have to dig up corner in the building. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to ask Highway Superintendent to coordinate with Water Department to move meter to Forst St. side of the Senior Center. So voted.

Request for Resources: NB Helps submitted a request to hold a Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 5:30-7. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to give initial approval. So voted. NOTE: NB Helps has requested to change the date to Saturday, December 4, from 5 to 6:30PM.

Special Town Meeting: Mr. Kiley read through the articles submitted and removed a few. Discussion about the Tree Warden salary, it was approved by the Board of Selectmen but never got appropriated. Mr. Kiley said to wait until Spring, if we have an overage, we can transfer the funds.

Mr. Tripp asked thanked the Police Department for putting caution sign up at Rail Trail. He also thanked them for parking around town in the cruiser, people see it and slow down. There is a speeding issue throughout Town, in the center and 1/8 mile out the speed limit is 25MPH.

Rail Trail-Mr. Tripp asked everyone to pick up after their horses and dogs. Most people are good. Mr. Tripp is covering locks with wood to protect them from snow. He put rip rap down between Orchard and Brickyard Road. He will be making rustic benches.

Public Comment:

Joanne Carey was present. She has lived in North Brookfield for a few years and has an issue with the library displays being of one political opinion. She said there are many good conservative books. Joanne gave the Board paperwork regarding Freedom to Read and Library Bill of Rights. Joanne said that the library displays must remain impartial, otherwise it alienates patrons. Mr. Kiley asked if she brought this to the Librarian's attention. Joanne said that yes, Dawn knows, and asked Joanne to provide her with a list of conservative books. Dawn did purchase 3 of them. Mr. Kiley asked how many liberal books were on display. Joanne said it changes weekly and they're rotated downstairs, but said there were hundreds and hundreds. Joanne said she's looking for balance, buy one for one. She's noticed a demand for conservative books. Mr. Kiley said they'd send the librarian and library trustees a letter asking they display parity in their selections. Joanne said when she last spoke to Dawn, Dawn said she wouldn't be buying anymore political books because they become dated, and that Dawn has had complaints from other patrons.

At 6:58PM, there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre