

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:00PM at the 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 for \$408,220.75, Payroll # 12a for \$2,521.05, General Warrant # 1026 for \$408,285.77 and School Warrant # 1025 for \$50,740.41. So voted.

Old Business: Sign Sewer Superintendent Contract: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to execute Jim Nyberg's contract for Sewer Superintendent. So voted.

New Business:

Annual License Renewals: Mr. Petraitis read the list of license renewals, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the renewals pending payment and all appropriate documentation being received. So voted.

Senior Center water issue/quote for repairs: Kenny Nye submitted a quote of \$1,975.00 plus permit fees, to move water service to the front of the building and relocate the meter. Jamie Flamand, Water Superintendent, gave an update to the Board regarding the issue. This is an emergency situation with a bad leak, costing up to \$5,500 monthly. Jamie is going to work with the Town and Kenny Nye to get this done as soon as possible. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept Kenny Nye's proposal. So voted.

Playground Committee Appointment: Tina Floria requested to join the Playground Committee, Sal was present and said he and Joe had a meeting and are 100% on board with Tina joining the committee. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Tina to the Playground Committee. So voted.

Library Trustees and Dawn Thistle presentation:

Peg Bodine, Chair of the Library Trustees, thanked the Board for their time. She was disappointed to hear the grievances made by Joanne Carey and wanted to correct erroneous information. The library has a written policy in accordance with standards and policies on their website regarding the care and maintenance of the library, as well as adequate selections and efficient services, and sound budgeting practices. Peg said Dawn Thistle, Librarian, is capable, knowledgeable, and passionate about the library. Dawn wanted to talk about 3 topics: displays, library selection, and specific topics.

Displays: Dawn said displays are there so materials will circulate. There are a few different displays, new acquisitions which covers all new materials, themed displays, topics depend on display area, glass case which holds educational materials. Any new non-fiction will be located on bookcase across from circulation desk and the rest is housed downstairs. Dawn said the greatest number of political books on display are 3, sometimes conservative, sometimes liberal, it depends on what's available, but they do cover all topics. Displays are rotated as quick as new materials come in. A lot of times books get checked out immediately and it happens often with political books. Dawn thinks they possibly have more conservative than liberal themed books and did ask Joanne for a list of books.

Dawn explained how the library selects materials: They have a pretty standard policy to review quality, accuracy, objectivity, they read reviews, look at book lists, reference the library journal,

magazines, and publishers' catalogs. But the best source is patron suggestion. Dawn met with Joanne and the Trustees and encouraged Joanne to help Dawn build the material selection. Dawn agrees there's a gap in the materials. She has ordered 14 books on conservative topics which will come in at different times and has since ordered 3 more. Dawn said Joanne was in the library yesterday and Dawn thanked her and will be on the lookout for more. Once Dawn is aware of an issue she will order requested material, there's no conspiracy or intention to keep people from reading certain topics. She's trying to build fill in gaps in certain areas such as music and the Vietnam War. Dawn ordered 15 books.

Adding donated books: Dawn said they usually get books from people cleaning out their homes, most will go to the book sale if they're not in good condition. But, if the library doesn't have the material, and it's in good condition, they will keep them. They have an in-kind gift form that they give to donors that states proceeds from the book sale will fund new material.

Materials: Dawn said if the library doesn't own something you can get in on inter-library loan, like CWMars and Commonwealth Catalog. Joanne had mentioned the book Dreams of Our Fathers but it's no longer in print but can be purchased on Kindle. Tuttle Twins was mentioned, which has been catalogued, an anonymous gift in honor of American Veterans.

Meeting Room: Any organization can use the meeting room; one person is the responsible party.

Mr. Kiley said the Board of Selectmen was concerned with the parity of the books but otherwise don't have much to say. Mr. Tripp said that when Joanne came to the Board with her concerns, he was wondering why those books weren't purchased and wasn't sure why it took Joanne pointing out the issue and requesting books. Mr. Tripp thanked Dawn and the Trustees for coming to the meeting.

Harbour Fraser Hodder said that some things were said, but the Trustees are a non-political body and just work for the Town. Conservative topics weren't neglected, just weak. Dawn responded quickly to Joanne's requests.

Mr. Kiley said the Board appreciates the Trustees clearing up the information, it's important to hear from all sides.

Tax Classification Hearing: At 6:35PM. Mr. Kiley opened the Tax Classification hearing. Sheila Buzzell handout paperwork and explained the North Brookfield normally has a single tax rate, our largest value is in residential. It is required by law that the Board vote for either single or split. Mr. Kiley asked Sheila if the recommendation is a single tax rate. She said yes, we don't have a split tax rate. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to set a single tax rate for North Brookfield. So voted. Sheila had Mr. Kiley sign the document and said we should have our tax rate this week. Hearing closed at 6:38PM.

Public Comment: Mr. Tripp thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas parade. It was a good showing, Santa was there, they got the tree lit, Brookfield Orchard made donations, Fire and Police helped a lot. Mr. Kiley said the park looks nice. Mr. Tripp thanked the decorating committee.

There being no further business, at 6:40PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre