

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following minutes: 9/28/21, 11/30/21, 11/30/21 exec 1, 11/30/21 exec 2. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 13 for \$411,300.72, Payroll # 13A for \$2,514.00, School # 1027 for \$198,365.94, CDBG # 1028 for \$47,546.91, Hucks# 1029 for \$1,500,000.00 and General # 1030 for \$104,768.94. So voted.

Financial Items:

Reimbursement request: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to reimburse Michelle Thayer \$2,050.00 out of the Board of Selectmen Technology account for a bill paid for emergency plumbing work done at the Senior Center. So voted. (This vote later retracted and reimbursement given through COA, via reserve fund)

ARPA Funds: Trevor Bruso spoke about North Brookfield sponsoring a regional hazardous waste day. They've been unable to sponsor this for 2 years. Generally North Brookfield fronts the money and other Towns kick some money back to us. We can use ARPA funds, and there's a need for it, right now we're sending people to Sutton for this. This would cost about \$8,000.00. Trevor explained the process and said they advertise with what products can and cannot be processed. Trevor spoke with John Couture and Senior Center employees about building a handicap ramp there for an additional entrance/exit. Trevor also wants the Board to look at the employee handbook and part time employee policy. Employees at the Recycling Center will lose 2 days' pay because holidays this year fall on Saturdays. Maybe an adjustment can be made to PT employees so they can get paid for holidays they are scheduled to work. Trevor thanked the Board for letting BOH purchase COVID test kits and gave out a sheet with COVID numbers. He worked with Harrington on clinics and they requested a meeting with many departments to explain the dire situation they're in with the lack of availability of hospital beds in Central Mass. ER wait times are up to 25 hours, normally an hour. The National Guard has been activated and it will hopefully get better soon. Trevor warned everyone that if they have any symptoms to please stay home. Numbers are going up drastically. The most recent mutation is much more communicable. Trevor said if you're vaccinated you will have mild symptoms. There are many breakthrough cases of the vaccinated contracting COVID. This is a wait and see situation, usually steep increases lead to steep declines. Good news is that anti-viral medications are being developed which will keep you out of the hospital but that will take time. Trevor is hoping this wave will end by the end of January. Trevor's been sending people to Rutland for their boosters. You can visit VaxFinder.Mass.Gov for information. 30 test kits are coming, which will be split into 60 tests, Board of Health is delivering tests 7 days a week.

Contract with Sutton: Trevor said the contract with Sutton will go through June, after they we may be able to shift to Leicester for services. The nurse in Sutton does our contact tracing for other communicable diseases and is a good resource. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the contract with Sutton until June 30, 2022. So voted.

New Business:

Police Reports: Mr. Tripp read the police reports for October and November. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

IT Grant: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the IT Grant contract. So voted.

Fire Department Grant: This will be tabled until January 4th.

Opioid Settlement: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve joining the Opioid settlement. So voted.

Public Comment:

Bill King asked if Greg Herring would be coming to the meeting. Mr. Tripp said he wouldn't come right now because of COVID numbers. Bill said we should get a second company to give us a quote on battery storage and solar. Mr. Tripp suggested sending Chris Olson an email.

Tina Floria wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Mr. Tripp wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said we closed on Huck's property; it will be a slow process to get Highway down there. Will move some equipment now for storage purposes.

Mr. Petraitis wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, stay safe and stay healthy!

There being no further business, at 6:52PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre