

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at the Police Department. 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 12/21/21 (Mr. Kiley abstained as he was not present). So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: CDBG warrant # 1046 for \$8,200.20, School # 1047 for \$108,421.54, General # 1048 for \$334,717.52, Payroll # 20 for \$382,885.77 and Payroll # 20A for \$2,514.00. So voted.

Financial:

Fire Department wage increase request: Fire Chief Joe Holway requested to increase firefighter wages from \$13/hour to \$14.25/hour. Mr. Kiley asked if it was in his budget. Chief Holway said the impact would be about \$363.00 as calculated to this date. New hires don't get paid until they are done with training. He said it's hard to say if he will stay in budget, it depends on the number of fires. He did research from 2019 until now and said the impact would be minimal. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the Chief's proposal to increase pay from \$13 to \$14.25/hour. So voted.

Police Boat: Mr. Petraitis said we have about \$6000.00 in donations, the boat is waiting at Hank's, they will hold it if we get them a deposit. He has several people interested in fundraising. The purchase will be made entirely with donation money. If anyone wants to donate the boat will be used at Lake Lashaway and for mutual aid. Donnie Berthiaume is trying to get state money. Mr. Kiley asked the total cost, Mr. Petraitis said he thinks around \$37,000.00. Mr. Tripp moved and Mr. Kiley seconded a motion to pay for the boat with all donated funds. So voted.

Dawn Thistle-Library Parking: Dawn wanted to remind the public that parking in front of the library is 2-hour parking. There are some spaces available behind the building. She said during COVID local employees got used to parking in front of the library all day. Seniors and young families have a difficult time getting across the street. Dawn said he asked local businesses to ask their employees to park elsewhere but the car owners wouldn't move their cars and the Police couldn't help. Dawn thanked Jason Benoit for putting up a temporary sign that states 2-hour parking and is asking for additional signage. She hopes if the signs are up the PD could write tickets. Mr. Kiley said we do have parking tickets. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to make the area around the library a 2-hour parking zone and place permanent signs. So voted. Dawn noted that she purchased 2-hour parking signs and told Jason.

Mr. Petraitis read the Fire Reports for February. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Joanne Carey-Book Requests: Joanne Carey stated she hates to complain but she doesn't see things getting better at the library and mentioned a book titled 1619 Project that talks about racism in America and that it spawned critical race theory. She spoke of a specific book in the library but not on display about how critical race theory is burning down our house. Joanne is looking for parity in the display-she said it would be nice if "America on Fire-Police Violence" was balanced with "War on Cops" to show both sides. She also read a description for a young adult book called Bitter. Mr. Tripp asked if anything

came from the last meeting that was had. She said it's not equal. Mr. Kiley asked if her complaint was that certain books are generally not available equally, or not displayed equally. Joanne said both. Mr. Tripp asked if they are getting closer to equal, Joanne said there is less left-wing but no more conservative stuff and that when she asks Dawn to buy a book Dawn says the book isn't available or there's no money to buy it. Mr. Kiley said he's not an advocate of banning anything but both perspectives should be equally available. Mr. Petraitis said they can't tell the library to take books on the shelves but there should be parity in the library. Mr. Kiley asked if Joanne had been to a Library Board of Trustees meeting, she said yes once. Mr. Kiley said the Trustees are elected officials; we can send a letter saying the NB residents should have equal access, but there's nothing more the Board can do. Mr. Tripp asked if Joanne was running for Library Trustee, she said yes.

FY19 CDBG Grant extension: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the grant extension.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said he was running for write-in candidate for Planning Board. Mr. Tripp said that Brandon comes to a lot their meetings already.

Announcements:

Mr. Tripp read grant award letter.

Mr. Petraitis read announcement about Annual Town Elections.

Mr. Tripp said dirt bikes are going down the rail trail but with more signage that should get better and he also needs put up parking signs. There is parking at each entrance for 1 or 2 cars, and more parking behind Tasse's. Kathy Crevier said its nice to see the rail trail being used and people out walking.

Mr. Petraitis left the meeting.

At 6:30PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to enter into executive session. First session will be to discuss complaints about an employee, and the second to conduct union negotiations. Roll call: Kiley, yes; Tripp, yes. So voted. Mr. Kiley announced there would be two separate executive sessions and the board would exit only to adjourn.

At 7:35PM the board came out of executive session. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre