

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:13PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 4/26/22. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 23 for \$358,867.47, Payroll # 23A for \$2,514.00, School # 1054 for \$79,814.77, General # 1056 for \$184,718.45 and Debt Service # 1055 for \$106,900.00. So voted.

Financials: Finance Committee Reserve Fund request-Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve Fin Comm reserve fund request of \$9,860.00 to Selectmen Repairs to do plumbing repairs at the new Highway barn. So voted.

Old Business: Town Election-Mr. Petraitis explained that there was a tie in the Selectmen's race. We will soon be setting the date for the Special Election and this will be the only item on the ballot. The Board is considering having the election in August but with the primaries taking place in September, we may move it to that date to save around \$3,000.00. Mr. Kiley had the opportunity to remain on the Board in a hold-over position but declined.

### New Business:

One Day Liquor License-Fire Department: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the one-day liquor license for the Fire Department's pay night. So voted.

Gary Mort-North Brookfield resident at 17A Brickyard Road: Gary Mort was in to complain about noise associated with dirt bikes and snow mobiles. He's had issues with his neighbor (Gary's brother) for the past 2 years and has tried to reason with him and his son. After Thanksgiving Gary started calling the police for noise/harassment complaints but was told there was nothing they could do because the noise ordinance is only effective 11pm to 7am. He's suffered property damage and his mailbox was damaged. Gary's nephew and his nephew's friends from different Towns have been harassing Gary's family. The other neighbors don't want to complain because they are afraid of retaliation. Gary wants to find out what can be done. Mr. Petraitis said he wasn't sure and would need to look into it. Gary said they can't even open their doors and windows because the noise is all day every day. Mr. Tripp asked if the people were on his property, Gary said not anymore, but his brother's property wraps around the back of his. Gary said the kids are drinking, smoking, and shouting profanities at Gary and his family. Mr. Tripp asked if there were wetlands behind the property, Gary said yes. At one point they sunk a 4-wheeler in the swamp and then cut down trees to get a backhoe in the area to get the bike out. Gary has video proof of this. He's suffering from harassment every day, he has a stack of photos showing the damage done to his property, but the police can't do anything unless they see it happening. Mr. Petraitis said he wasn't sure there was anything the Board can do but he will look into it.

ARPA Recommendations: Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the APRA committee with their requests for approval of APRA funds (Aire system for Horse Pond \$82,625.72, Library wireless upgrade \$4,472.00, CPR/Defib training \$1,000.00, alterations to Senior Center \$50,000.00 and Town Clerk Salary \$17,106

00). Ethan Melad, Chairman of the ARPA Committee explained the ARPA funds and the limited range we can use them for-Health, Stormwater, Broadband improvement and revenue loss replacement. The committee is concerned with the Town Clerk's pay, you can't replace existing allocated funds with ARPA funds. CMRPC is managing the grant that will pay for improvements to the Senior Center (new roof and flooring), but the Senior Center does not have a handicap egress-adding this would help with ADA compliance and public health because it will provide for better flow of traffic (enter one door, exit the other). An estimate of \$48,510.14 was given by the architect engaged in the roof and floor project. Mr. Tripp asked if we should get another quote. Ethan said we could, but we are already contracted with them so it would be less expensive to stay with them as they can include it in the already scheduled project. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the five requests the ARPA committee submitted. So voted. Ethan Melad also noted the about \$50,000 of the work for the Complete Streets project could be paid out of ARPA funds.

CDBG Special Conditions letter: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the special conditions letter. So voted.

Sewer-AMP Grant-Jim Nyberg provided a handout explaining a reimbursable grant the Sewer department was awarded. The grant would include a review of the current assets, software, CMMS program, purchase, training and implementation of software. There is a 60% in kind match of labor required, 336 hours are projected. Jim explained the money would need to be appropriated before the grant can be officially approved. Jim asked the Board if they could hold a Special Town Meeting to appropriate this money (out of Sewer retained earnings) to show the state the proof of appropriation before the end of June. Jim suggested holding the STM on 6/3 before the AATM. Mr. Tripp asked about paying up front, Jim said the Sewer department pays about \$164,000.00 up front but will be reimbursed about \$110,000.00, only costing the Sewer department about \$50,000.00. Mr. Tripp confirmed with Jim that the sewer department has those funds available. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on June 3, 2022. So voted.

Mr. Tripp thanked Jason Petraitis for dedicating the Town Report to him and said many volunteers helped him with his projects throughout Town.

#### Public Comment:

A resident said since the Board was talking about ARPA there are about 5 properties on Brooks Pond Road with no access to cable/internet. The resident talked to Charter many years ago and was given a price of \$7,000.00 to install cable. He's since called back and Charter will no longer give him a quote. Mr. Petraitis said this is an issue we've had for years, there are several areas in Town with no internet/cable access. In 2009 or 2010 Mr. Petraitis had Charter agree to provide service and build to outer reaches of Town, but it's hard to argue with Charter and keep them accountable. Mr. Petraitis said they are looking at how they are going to split up the ARPA money requests, and broadband upgrades have been noted.

A resident on Brooks Pond Road requested cameras be placed at the pond that can be monitored live from the Police Department. Mr. Petraitis asked the resident to make a formal request, resident had letter in hand.

Brandon Avery said he lives less than a mile from the center of Town and has no cable access. Charter quoted him \$2/foot for installation.

Ethan Melad asked the Board what would happen if they are split on a vote since its only a 2-member board. Mr. Petraitis said they would need to revisit the topic. Mr. Petraitis noted that the Town Clerk can step in to pay bills if there's no quorum, but that no new business could be taken up.

At 6:49PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter into executive session for reason two, to discuss union contract negotiations. So voted. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes. Mr. Petraitis noted the Board would only exit executive session to adjourn.

At 7:45PM the board exited executive session and there being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre