

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:24PM on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. So voted. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes. Mr. Petraitis noted the board would exit executive session to reconvene in open session.

At 6:15PM the Board came out of executive session.

James McMahon from Green Gold Group was present, Mr. Petraitis told him that Dale Kiley was no longer on the Board of Selectmen, and that the board wanted to get reacquainted with Jim and let him know that Jason Petraitis would be replacing Dale on the advisory board for Green Gold. Mr. Petraitis asked if they have meetings with the advisory board, Jim said nothing regular but he does talk to the Chief of Police about once a week and it's been smooth sailing. Jim said from their point of view things are looking good, they have about \$120,000.00 to go before hitting the \$500,000 cap on the stabilization fees. If things continue to go smoothly, GGG should be paid up by August 2023, and they are happy to continue helping the Town, they've already made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Town Park. Mr. Tripp stated that GG agreed to donate \$3,500.00 to pay for electrical work done at the park. Jim said to send him an invoice and he would get it squared away. Mr. Petraitis said they should setup a meeting with the other advisory board members, Jim said he's available Mondays and Tuesdays. Mr. Petraitis asked how it was going for them in North Brookfield, Jim said it's going well, full speed ahead. They just opened their kitchens and have been getting great reviews. Mr. Petraitis asked how the retail got shot down, Jim said the Planning Board shot them down.

Derick Veliz was in to explain the Town Alert App-Jim Nyberg from Sewer was there for the presentation.

STM Warrant-Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign and approve the June 3, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrants. So voted.

Jim asked the Board to sign a letter agreeing to work with USDA for Sewer upgrade grants and loans. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted.

Jim gave out an assumed debt schedule. Mr. Petraitis wanted clarification: project was approved for 13 million, we got a grant for almost 10 million. Jim then gave an estimate for construction costs. He said they are working to bring down costs regarding the HVAC unit for the admin building, and that the staff completed the chemical system to that will save the town \$80,000.00. He noted the only way to get the actual cost estimates is to go out to bid and they've already got a list of prequalified bidders. He said they should have the contract signed by mid-June, prequal through August, bids by October and it will come back to the Town quickly after that. They should be able to award and sign the contract for the construction by January.

Transfer requests:

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the Treasurer's request of transferring \$330.40 from Treasurer/Accountant Training Salary to BOS Sick Leave buy back. So voted.

This was done because Anne Jannette's retirement was calculated to start at the end of April but she needed to stay on until the end of June.

Reserve Fund request: \$2,603.58 was requested from the Reserve Fund to cover the September 2021 Special Election cost. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Reserve Fund request: \$1,363.00 was requested from the Reserve Fund, transferred to Care of Trees: Warden Salary to cover the cost of Tree Warden and Assistant Tree Warden. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Transfer: \$3,500.00 from Cemetery Tree Removal and Maintenance to Care of Trees: Warden Salary, to cover the pay for Tree Warden and Assistant Tree Warden. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Police Boat: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to return the money raised for the police boat to the donors. So voted. Mr. Petraitis said any money leftover (anonymous donors) would be turned over the 4th of July gift account and that he's trying to plan a parade for the 4th of July this year.

Special Election Date: Mr. Petraitis spoke with Town Clerk, Tara Hayes, no one requested a recount of the ballots. Next Tuesday the board will announce that the Special Election will take place in September, Tara should have all corresponding dates ready.

Street Light Issues-need to find out who pays for the street lights. Customers used to be able to pay for street lights but National Grid is now saying they can't. Ashley will reach out to Carl Hartwick for more information.

Spending Freeze: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to place a spending freeze on all departments, only contractual payments and utilities can be paid, all other expenses must be approved by the Board of Selectmen prior to purchase. So voted.

FOIA-Bruce Arnold made a FOIA asking for written results of any explorations or studies. All the information was verbal, Tara emailed Town Counsel, they will provide a letter for Bruce.

Next ARPA meeting is 5/24. Mr. Tripp noted that Jamie Flamand is getting a price to put 65 Donovan Road on Town water.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre