

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:34PM on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter into executive session to discuss complaints against an employee and to consider applicants for employment. So voted. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes. Mr. Petraitis noted the board would exit executive session and reopen in open session to conduct the regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

At 6:00PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to exit executive session and enter into open session. So voted. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Tripp, yes.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from 3/8/22. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: School # 1064 for \$76,105.41, General # 1065 for \$209,943.39, Payroll # 26 for \$567,204.39, and Payroll # 26A for \$2,522.00. So voted

### Financials:

Transfers- Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following transfers:

\$261.76 from Police Overtime to Police Salary, \$3,450.49 from Police Overtime to Police Career incentive, \$1,000.00 from Water Blding & Equip Maint. to Water Other Salary-budget was depleted due to water main breaks, \$552.00 from Playground salary to Playground supplies, \$671.00 from Library Salary to Library purchase and services. So voted.

Reserve Fund Requests: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the following reserve fund requests:

\$538.16 to Playground Supplies for additional material for the ball field, and \$2,594.00 to Library Purchase and services to cover 2 electric bills, 2 gas bills, 2 constellation bills, 2 CBS bills, and 1 Bennet bill due to mid-year budget cut. So voted.

### Old Business:

Sign Audit Letter- Mr. Petraitis explained that we sign this letter yearly and agree to the terms of the audit. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted.

ARPA Vote-Mr. Petraitis explained that the ARPA Committee recommended approving reimbursement to the Arnold's from ARPA funds to correct flooding issues. There are questions as to whether this is storm water or an onsite private well. There is no solid proof either way and a letter from Town Counsel advises against paying this as its an inappropriate use of funds. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to not approve payment to the Arnold's out of ARPA funds. So voted.

### New Business:

Contract Amendment for Fire Station Architect- Fire Chief Joe Holway explained that he reached out to the architect engaged in work on designing a new fire station to see if they could help with plans for

upgrading the current fire station. Signing this contract amendment will allow them to go forward with getting estimates for work needed and review the estimates for Highway barn and Huck's building. Chief Holway said he has enough to cover the cost, so no additional cost to the Town is necessary. The money had already been allocated for the architect, and it was redefined at the last town meeting. They've already laser shot the building; it will take about 7 weeks to get the proposals together. Actual design and plans would need to be part of a future debt exclusion. Mr. Tripp asked about costs of design and plans, Chief Holway didn't know. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the contract amendment. So voted.

Appointment: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Donna Seguin to the position of Director of the Senior Center. So voted. Mr. Petraitis said that the Board received a letter from the COA recommending Donna for the position and that she can begin work on July 5. She is eager to return to this position. Mr. Tripp said he sat in on a COA meeting and is please they are giving her a second chance.

CDBG Contract extensions: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign contract extensions for FY19 and FY20 CDBG grants, extending the deadline to December for each. So voted.

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program contract: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the SMRP grant contract. So voted. This is a recycling grant that North Brookfield has participated in for a few years.

#### Public Comment:

Kathy Crevier was questioning why the lot next to the PD was sectioned off, she thought there were movies being shown, but she was told by the Chief of Police that its for a new helicopter pad. Mr. Tripp explained that will be a landing zone for emergency life flight. Michelle Thayer asked about maintenance. Mr. Petraitis said in the Spring/Summer and Fall there are many areas for the helicopter to land, but it's harder in the Winter because of snow, the land next to the PD will be designated landing zone. Kathy asked what was done in the past, Mr. Tripp said they would use the school if there was no one there. Kathy asked who would maintain the area, Mr. Tripp said Highway will. Kathy said the Town doesn't have a lot of money, Mr. Tripp said it won't cost much, they can plow and mow it a few times, it will save lives to have this area. Mr. Tripp also noted that Chief Holway came to us with this issue, the life flight crew did look for other areas in Town and decided this would be the best place. Kathy asked if movie night could still take place in the lot, Mr. Tripp said yes and Mr. Petraitis said nothing permanent will be placed in that area.

Kathy questioned why there was no salary for the Playground Committee (noting the transfer made at the beginning of the meeting), Mr. Petraitis said they didn't need it, they elected not to hire a clerk and draw on the salary.

Kathy questioned the vote for not paying Arnold's through ARPA funds and said the Town's people voted to pay it twice. Mr. Petraitis said it is illegal for us to pay it and explained ARPA is different, outside of Town budget, if there is an issue directly related to Town infrastructure it may be eligible for payment.

Chet Lubelczyk said he has two softball teams ready to play on July 4<sup>th</sup> Fun Day. It will be Firemen vs. "1940's girls" baseball team. They will play at 1:00PM and Sheila Orsi will most likely be singing the

National Anthem to start the game. Chet is also trying to schedule a Neil Diamond impersonator for the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch.

Mr. Tripp said there will be a small parade at 11:00AM starting at the Fire Station, up North Main Street, down Grove Street, ending at the Common. He has secured donations from Hannaford and Dollar General.

Announcements:

There will be treatment at Lake Lashaway starting June 30<sup>th</sup>, no swimming for 24 hours.

There being no further business, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre