

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00PM at the North Brookfield 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 following minutes: 2/15/22, 2/15/22 exec, 2/1/22, 2/1/22 exec. So voted.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 18 \$359,527.55, Payroll # 18A \$2,530.00, School # 1040 \$54,641.10, CDBG # 1041 \$13,918.83, and General # 1042 \$168,644.41. So voted.

New Business:

Appointment: ZBA requested to have Kim Bent appointed as alternate to their Board. Tara Hayes is unable to perform her duties at this time and Kim is the ZBA Clerk so attends their meetings. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to appoint Kim Bent to Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate. So voted.

New Hire at Water Department: Jamie Flamand introduced Zachary Ramaska as the new operator for the Water Department. Jason Petraitis read a letter from the Water Department recommending Zachary. Mr. Tripp asked if there was money in the budget for the new hire, Jamie said yes and added that Zachary has all the proper licensing needed to be an operator. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to hire Zachary Ramaska as an operator at the Water Department. So voted.

Fire Reports: Mr. Tripp read the Fire reports for December 2021, and January 2022. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

Public Comment:

Joanne Carey stated that she is running for Library Board of Trustees.

Announcements:

Mr. Kiley thanked Randy Beaudoin for making a sign for the new Highway department on Donovan Rd. He made and donated the sign to the Town. Mr. Tripp said he asked Randy for a price and 2 weeks later Randy donated it.

Mr. Petraitis read the Annual Town Election information.

Mr. Kiley read letters from the First Congregational Church sharing words of thanks and appreciation about Chief Mark Smith and Chief Joe Holway.

Sewer update-Final Design review:

Courtney from the engineering group Kleinfelder gave a presentation on the final design. They've been working with Sewer since 2018, looked at whole system to understand conditions and needs and just finished the full design. A major driver of the need for an upgrade is new permit levels and DEP regulations, especially the decreased phosphorous limits, the current plant cannot do that. A pilot study

was done using cloth media filter which showed positive results. There will be improved operability and efficiency, a lot of the equipment is 20 or more years old and nearing the end of its useful life, and some systems will be automated. Some key regulatory requirements are ammonia and phosphorous levels, as well as metals limits. Courtney stated the design is for our current limit, which is fine because we are at half capacity, so it will still allow for more wastewater in the future. Hopefully this design will also ensure we won't need to do a project of this scale for many years.

Courtney spoke about 3 levels of treatment and explained the processes for each. Headworks (removing big stuff and separating) will be improved with new screening and grit equipment, upgrading mechanical components and upgrading HVAC system to pull odor. Electrical, lighting, power supply, and panels will be updated as well. Current building is staying. Biological process is the next phase-currently there are 4 concrete tanks that run independently, upgrade will make it 2 tanks running in series, converting from a complete aeration process to Anaerobic-anoxic-aerobic method (A2O method), which will hopefully improve ammonia reduction. Once a biological solid is formed it will settle and be put into circular tanks which will allow it to settle further and go through secondary clarifiers. Tertiary process-run through cloth media filters, then disinfection, then to brook. Leftover solids go to incineration. Mr. Tripp asked if we have to pay to get rid of that? Jim said yes, it's one of their biggest expenses.

New Equipment-blowers and pressers, new equipment in secondary clarifiers. Courtney noted that North Brookfield owns the oldest outdoor cloth media system in the state-will be adding new structure and disinfection system. They will be taking the existing concrete tank and creating a split tank which will add more holding capacity and time.

The center of the plant is the oldest part, houses a number of pumps, will be replacing all but 2 pumps. Adding outside a tank drain pump station. This will improve operability. There will be some HVAC and electrical improvements.

Admin building-current is 1000 sq. ft., will increase to allow for more function, additional staff if needed and a workshop area. Mr. Tripp asked about keeping the building, Courtney said it's very costly to rehab the old building, it is a prefab metal building which is only designed to last 30 years. Mr. Tripp asked how they'll operate while old building is taken down and replaced. Courtney said they would move to a trailer.

Septage-big offset for cost, big source of income. Current capacity is not big enough and is significantly aged. A new receiving station will operate much better and have more capacity. Courtney explained septic process, truck size load vs. steady flow of waste. 3000 gallons at a time can overwhelm the system. The new station will screen and hold in a buried tank, can be pumped into headworks in a controlled manor. Mr. Tripp asked if we will be adding this or do we have it? Courtney said adding some, new screens, can take higher septage volume in future. Bill King asked if there will be canopies over the aeration tanks. Courtney said we typically don't cover aeration tanks, can ebb and flow. Filters and UV should be covered/inside, they are currently outside. They opted for a greenhouse style structure which will cover equipment and operators.

Joanne Carey asked if the water going into the brook is safe. Courtney said that's the goal. It's good now but we need to meet more stringent limits.

Brandon Avery said some towns send their final solids to be made into fertilizer. Courtney said we don't have enough quantity to make that profitable at our size plant. Possibly in the future regionalization for solids disposal/fertilizer could be looked at.

Schedule-in 2020 they started the facility plan, 100% design drawings are done, documents have been sent to USDA for funding, now doing a cost review which should be available in a month or so. They are hoping to start construction in the middle of this year. Construction costs are volatile right now, they are working with a third-party firm that has a good pulse on this issue.

Funding-pursuing USDA funds, they have all our paperwork, we should get grant/loan information soon, we were the first in line this year. Courtney will be back with a cost estimate when they have it. Mr. Tripp asked if she had any idea on exact amount, she said they are working with the 13.1 million approved budget and are talking options if it comes in higher.

There being no further business, at 6:56PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre