

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 26, 2016

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Hevy turned the meeting over to Moderator James Caldwell for a Special Town Meeting.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING @ 6 PM

Mr. Caldwell called the town meeting to order, and read the one article warrant. (Attachment #1) Mr. Hevy motioned, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to the Sewer Enterprise Account. The motion carried. Mr. Caldwell accepted a motion to dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 6:05 PM, and returned the meeting to Mr. Hevy.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **September 17, 2015**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted.

- **January 12, 2016**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted, with Mr. Hevy abstaining because he was not present at this meeting.

- **January 19, 2016**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve these minutes as written. So voted.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1034 for \$92,231.41**
- **General Warrant #1035 for \$313,244.83**
- **Payroll Warrant #15 for \$288,222.21**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned warrants. So voted.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **The public has the opportunity to briefly comment on agenda items through the Chairman**

Mr. Hevy noted that anyone in attendance would have the opportunity to comment on any of this evening's agenda items.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **None**

There were no financial reports.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sign contract with Charter Communications

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract for cable services with Charter Communications. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Hevy thanked the members of the Cable Advisory Committee and the Local Public Access Committee who participated in the negotiations. Mr. Smith noted that this contract incorporates the best practices from other towns.

- **Move all executive session minutes related to the negotiations of this contract into open domain**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to move all of the minutes related to the negotiations with Charter Communications into open domain. So voted.

B. Green Communities follow up

Mrs. Walter explained that the Planning Board met and discussed the Green Communities program that was presented in December by representatives from the state and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. The Planning Board voted that they do not want to pursue Green Communities certification for North Brookfield because it would use up all of the town's planning hours from CMRPC. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to take no action on this at this time. So voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Retirement notice from Highway Superintendent

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean informing the Board of his intention to retire on February 3, 2017. (Attachment #2) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Jean has done a great job for the Town and he will be missed.

B. Letter re: Highway Superintendent

Mrs. Walter read a letter from Cynthia Paradise of Warren Street complimenting Mr. Jean on his efforts to correct a drainage problem on her property. (Attachment #3) Ms. Paradise noted that Mr. Jean treated her with respect and was very cordial in listening to her concerns. Mr. Smith reiterated that Mr. Jean will be missed when he retires.

C. Fire Department report

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to deliver a report on the 2015 activities of his department. (Attachment #4) He reported that there were 133 calls and 305 permits issued last year. Chief Gannon also noted that the ISO representative recently came to North Brookfield and closely inspected Engine 3, which is scheduled to be replaced. If the Town ISO rating goes down, every homeowner will be required to pay more for their homeowners insurance. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

D. Letter to AAB

Mr. Hevy explained that the Town has a hearing with the Architectural Access Board on February 8th regarding the Town House. (Attachment #5) Mrs. Walter will attend and represent the Town. Mrs. Walter further explained that the Town previously committed to providing the AAB with the future plans for the Town House. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to appoint Mrs. Walter to represent the Town at the AAB hearing. So voted.

E. Letter authorizing School Superintendent to apply to MSBA

Mr. Smith explained that the School Department will be applying to the MSBA for funding to replace the Elementary School roof. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion that: Having convened in an open meeting on January 26, 2016, prior to the closing date, the Board of Selectmen of North Brookfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 5, 2015 for the North Brookfield Elementary School located at 10 New School Drive, North Brookfield MA 01535 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Accelerated Repair Program – replacement of existing roof of North Brookfield Elementary School; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. So voted. The Selectmen signed a memo certifying this vote. (Attachment #6)

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. May 2nd Annual Town Election

Mrs. Walter reviewed a memo from the Town Clerk listing the offices and incumbents up for election at the May 2nd Annual Town Election. (Attachment #7) Mr. Smith noted that he has chosen not to seek reelection, but he will be available to help out when needed. He said that he has enjoyed being on this team.

B. North Brookfield Food Pantry

Mr. Smith announced that the North Brookfield Food Pantry is open on the 1st Thursday of the month from 6 PM to 7:15 PM, and the 3rd Thursday of the month from noon to 1:30 PM. The Food Pantry is located at St. Joseph's Church.

C. Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Supper

Mr. Smith announced that the Hearts for Heat organization will be sponsoring their 8th annual Spaghetti Supper and PTO Movie Day on Saturday, January 30th beginning at 3 PM in the Elementary School. The cost is \$8 per person, with a \$24 family cap.

D. Veterans Agent certification

Mr. Hevy congratulated Veterans Agent Holly Kularski for passing her recent certification exam.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

Mr. Smith asked if the Board was still planning to meet next Tuesday to discuss FY17 budgets, and Mr. Hevy and Mrs. Walter both said that they had planned on that. Mr. Smith said that he still has not heard back from East Brookfield on whether or not they will attend to discuss the Town Beach.

Mr. Hevy said that at some point in the future he would like to discuss a new Fire Department facility.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel.**

At 7:15 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Walter, yes; Smith, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:00 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

**NBDDP/Aztec
Solar RFP
Purchase Orders
Creation of Financial Advisory Committee
Personnel policies
Cemetery Road
Bids on health insurance
98 Shore Road
DOR IT recommendations**

Electric aggregation
Community Compact
FY17 Budgets
Meeting with EB re: Town Beach