

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 9, 2016

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Board of Health office at 8:35 AM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present.

Also present were Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel, Treasurer Anne Jannette, and Assessors Sheila Buzzell, Priscilla Johnson, and Lisa Kularski.

Present from the Collins Center at UMass Boston were Monica Lamboy, Rick Kingsley, Bob Rooney, and Sarah Concannon.

Ms. Lamboy began the meeting by explaining that the Collins Center has been hired by the Town to work on two Community Compact projects: Long Range Financial Forecasting, and Capital Planning. Mr. Rooney will be in charge of the Capital Planning project, and Mr. Kingsley will be leading the Long Range Forecasting project.

Mr. Kingsley explained that he worked at the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services for more than thirty years.

Mr. Rooney noted that his career has been in capital management at the federal, state, and local level. He served as the COO for the City of Newton, and also as their DPW Director.

Ms. Lamboy said that she has a background in city planning and organizational management, and has worked all over the country.

Ms. Concannon noted that she has worked at the Collins Center for four years, and has worked on many capital plans for cities and towns.

Ms. Lamboy presented an agenda for the day (Attachment #1) and a proposed project schedule. (Attachment #2) She noted that the proposed schedule has the draft plans available in May and June, but the contract could be amended to have those plans ready later in the year in order to be ready for the next budget process. The Selectmen agreed that it would be difficult to implement these plans for this FY17 budget cycle, but it would be great to have the tools in place for the FY18 budget.

Mr. Smith noted that local aid has never returned to pre-2008 levels, and this has negatively impacted North Brookfield's budget. In addition, the Chapter 70 formula is very harmful to our budget.

Mrs. Walter noted that in her opinion that since the state budget cuts in 2008 we have had to balance our annual budget using Free Cash. We know that this is not a good practice, but it is done out of necessity. We have been lucky so far, but there is no way this year's Free Cash is going to be enough to cover the deficit. We have minimal

employee staffing, there is no one to lay off. She believes that North Brookfield's zoning by-laws make it difficult for businesses to locate here in order to generate new revenue.

Mr. Kingsley stated that it will be a challenge to come with funds to fund a Capital Plan.

On the subject of Capital Planning, Mr. Rooney noted that he will work to determine the priorities of the residents, in addition to speaking with department heads to ascertain their needs.

The Selectmen discussed a survey request from CMRPC that asks for potential regionalization projects. Leslie will fill out the survey on their site.

There being no further business, Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn at 10:30 AM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant