

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 22, 2016**

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:05 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present. He asked for a moment of silence for Julie McCarthy, who passed away last week.

Mr. Smith noted that he has known Ms. McCarthy for a long time, and he is very sorry that she is no longer here. She had an impact on everyone that she came in contact with. She worked behind the scenes with the Decorate Our Town committee to make the Town's Christmas celebration and Santa's visit so special. If you ever wondered about the beautiful flowers in the center of town, or who puts out flags for Memorial Day, it was Julie. She was involved with the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade, and the annual Earth Day town wide cleanup.

Julie was most passionate about the Town House. She worked tirelessly to save the building, coordinating the efforts that raised \$2 million in tax credits. The fundraising campaign will begin soon. Julie was not from North Brookfield, but after she moved here she quickly became a leading advocate for the Town. She will be missed.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **March 8, 2016**
- **March 9, 2016**
- **March 15, 2016 Executive Session**

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

### **II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

- **Debt Warrant #1043 for \$87,386.25**
- **School Warrant #1044 for \$115,540.94**
- **General Warrant #1045 for \$98,068.45**
- **Payroll Warrant #19 for \$282,232.48**

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**

#### **A. FY17 budget update**

Mr. Hevy noted that the Selectmen are continuing to review FY17 departmental budget requests, while waiting on the House version of the state budget. The Finance Committee is meeting with the various departments as well.

Mr. Smith noted that he met with the School Superintendent and School Committee last night and gave them an updated income/expense sheet showing where the current FY17 budget stands. There was discussion on the Town's difficult financial position, and Mr. Smith asked the School Committee to rework their FY17 budget request. They noted that it is their job to advocate for the schools. Mr. Smith said that he agrees, but pointed out that the numbers are restrictive, we can only do so much. Mr. Smith said that there are good things happening at the schools, and he wishes the Town could afford to fund the schools at the level to which they should be funded, but it may not be possible.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Sign PVPC lien discharges**

Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission asking the Selectmen to sign off on various lien discharges for the Cocaine property at 22 Brookfield Road. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the discharges. So voted.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Water Department re: dam inspection**

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from James Kularski, Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners, recommending that the Selectmen sign a contract with Lenard Engineering to conduct a Phase I Dam Inspection of Doane's Pond. (Attachment #2) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

### **B. State Police Radio Committee proposal**

Mr. Hevy reviewed another letter from Mr. Kularski and the Water Department recommending that the State Police Radio Committee be allowed to install a communications antenna at the Water Treatment Plant on Bell Road. (Attachment #3) Mr. Hevy noted that this antenna will improve emergency communications for North Brookfield and other towns in the area. Mrs. Walter asked who would maintain the antenna, and Mr. Hevy noted that the State Police would, since it is their equipment. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the Water Department recommendation that the State Police be allowed to install the antenna at the Water Plant. So voted. Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen appreciate the Water Department's willingness to allow the equipment to be installed there.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Election**

Mrs. Walter reviewed a memo from Town Clerk Sheila Buzzell regarding the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Election. (Attachment #4) Offices up for election and the current incumbent were listed. The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Annual Town Meeting to be held on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Articles are due to BOS by Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Smith reminded everyone that article requests for the May 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting are due to the Selectmen's office by Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**C. March 26<sup>th</sup> Rabies Clinic**

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that there will be a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Second Chance Animal Shelter. The Town Clerk will be present for licensing.

**D. Tyler Wolanin office hours**

Mr. Smith noted that Anne Gobi's aide Tyler Wolanin will hold office hours in North Brookfield on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

**VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **See attached list**

Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen still need to get their regional project to Trish Settles of CMRPC for the Town's Community Compact project. This will be on the April 5<sup>th</sup> agenda under old business. Diane Nichols was supposed to gather information on regionalizing area Senior Centers, and Mrs. Walter had previously suggested studying the possibility of implementing a Council of Governments in the area.

In regards to the NBDDP/ Aztec property, Mrs. Walter noted that she is trying to set up a meeting with Quabaug to see if there is any interest on their part, otherwise we will just proceed with spending the grant money before June.

On the subject of 98 Shore Road, Mr. Hevy noted that he would like to ask the gentlemen from Power Management to contact the abutter and discuss leasing the property for solar instead of selling it.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Executive Session to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual**

At 6:55 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to recess until 7 PM, and then enter Executive Session to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. So voted.

At 7:10 PM Mr. Hevy called the meeting back to order. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Walter, yes; Smith, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy noted that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:45 PM the Board exited 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**  
**98 Shore Road**  
**DOR IT recommendations**  
**Electric aggregation**  
**Community Compact**  
**FY17 Budgets**  
**Meeting with EB re: Town Beach**