

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2013

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:05 PM with Mr. Chabot and Mr. Smith also present.

Mrs. Walter asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mary Ellen Brown Kusmeski, who recently passed away. Mary Ellen was very active in the Town's 200th Anniversary celebration last year.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2013**
APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2013
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2013

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

- IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1024 FOR \$50,555.31**
APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1025 FOR \$217,766.84
APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #11 FOR \$296,375.39

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. HAMPSHIRE POWER AGGREGATION AGREEMENT

Mrs. Walter explained that this agreement with Hampshire Power will allow residents to receive a lower electric rate. (Attachment #1) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the agreement. So voted.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Mrs. Walter reviewed a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Worcester. (Attachment #2) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the agreement. So voted.

C. ALS CHASE CAR CIC GRANT APPLICATION

Janet Pierce from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission was present to inform the Board that a Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant application for a "chase car" to provide ALS services to approximately 10 rural towns, including North Brookfield, will not be submitted to the state. Ms. Pierce thanked the

Selectmen for attending the October 17th meeting in New Braintree where all of the stakeholders discussed this proposal. CMRPC is concerned that the grant application was not sustainable, and decided not to go forward with the application.

Ms. Pierce stated, however, that a proposal for ALS training trailers that came out of that meeting will go forward as a CIC application.

Ms. Pierce also noted that CMRPC is currently conducting a study of ambulance services in six area towns, and that study should be finalized in December. This study should help determine how to best provide service to these towns. This will also take into account the ramifications of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Pierce said that CMRPC will hold meetings with the affected towns after the study is completed.

Ms. Pierce noted that there are ongoing discussions on the regional purchasing of medical supplies for towns, local emergency squads and squads. There will be a meeting in January about this.

Mrs. Walter noted that in December 2012 CMRPC came to a meeting of area Boards of Selectmen to discuss ambulance services. CMRPC has been involved in this subject for some time. She noted that the Selectmen appreciate Ms. Pierce's hard work and time.

D. SPENCER ALS PROPOSAL

Mrs. Walter noted that the Spencer Rescue Squad had put forth a proposal that would essentially dissolve the North Brookfield and East Brookfield Emergency Squads and have Spencer Rescue provide ambulance service to the three towns. North Brookfield Emergency Squad (NBEMS) Director Patrick Kiritsy stated that that is his understanding as well.

Mrs. Walter said that it is her understanding that a CIC grant application for that proposal will not be going forward, but that the area ambulance squads will continue to meet. Mr. Kiritsy said that was correct. He noted that ALS is an expensive proposition for these small towns. He explained that when North Brookfield needs ALS service they "intercept" with another town, depending on which hospital they are using. He noted that North Brookfield provided ALS services 120 times last year, no one is being denied ALS.

Mrs. Walter asked if any of the other services used by North Brookfield are endangered, and Mr. Kiritsy stated that ALS is provided through mutual aid and intercept agreements, those are not in jeopardy.

Mrs. Walter stated that the Selectmen should participate in these meetings to try to come up with solutions for better ambulance service. She also noted that the Town's contract with NBEMS states that they will provide CPR and First Responder training at no cost to the town.

E. PROJECT UPDATES

Mrs. Walter noted that the Murphy Road bridge is the number one safety concern of the town. The bridge continues to be vandalized, and the police are patrolling there more frequently. We should have a proposal from the state, through Senator Brewer's office, very soon. The cost for engineering could be as much as \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. The Selectmen are doing what we can to expedite this process.

There will be a paving feasibility hearing on December 17th. All of the neighbors will be notified by mail of this hearing. At a paving hearing in 2004 several residents objected to the paving of this road due to wetlands and other environmental issues. Two residents feel that they were not given a change to voice their opinions.

Mrs. Walter also noted that the Friends of the Town House had a very productive meeting last night; they are moving forward with McCrostie Historic Advisors and have applied for pro-bono legal work to form the LLC.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Although there was no official new business, Mr. Chabot noted that Friday is the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy. He suggested a moment of silence at Friday's Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Veteran's Agent needs a new computer, which will come out of the Technology Account. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the purchase. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. TIGER SCOUTS SUPPLY DRIVE

Mr. Chabot announced that the Tiger Scouts have partnered with Hannaford to hold a supply drive for the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency (NBEMA). They are looking for travel size shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as non-perishable food items such as bottled water or granola bars. This will take place on November 30th from 10 AM to 2 PM.

B. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7 PM

Mr. Smith reminded residents about the Special Town Meeting to be held Friday night to deal with the O'Neill lawsuit.

C. MURPHY ROAD PUBLIC HEARING 12/17

Mrs. Walter had already announced this. She suggested that next year when CMRPC does their traffic counts that Murphy Road be done.

Mr. Chabot asked if the Conservation or Highway Department can do anything about the flow control device in the pond at Brickyard Road. The water is almost overflowing the road. Mrs. Walter suggested that another hearing about beavers could be held with beaver specialist Malcolm Speicher.

At 6:50 PM Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining. Roll call: Walter, yes; Smith, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted.

At 7:30 the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant