

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 7, 2013**

Mrs. Walter called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Senior Center with Mr. Chabot and Mr. Smith also present. Mrs. Walter reminded those in attendance that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

### **I. REORGANIZATION OF BOARD**

Mrs. Walter asked for a motion to reorganize the Board. Mr. Chabot welcomed Mr. Smith, and thanked Mr. Petraitis for his five years of service. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to elect Mrs. Walter as chairman, Mr. Smith as vice-chairman, and Mr. Chabot as clerk. So voted.

#### **IA. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2013**

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013 as written. So voted, with Mr. Smith abstaining.

#### **IB. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1059 FOR \$53,604.21 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1060 FOR \$319,113.96 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1061 FOR \$11,719.01 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #23 FOR \$293,483.36**

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

### **IC. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

As there was no one present for the Public Comment Period, and there had not been for the past few months, Mrs. Walter asked if the other two members would like to discontinue it? Mr. Chabot noted that people have always had the opportunity to speak if they wish. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to discontinue the formal Public Comment Period.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. RESULTS OF LINDA GRACE'S STUDY OF BATES OBSERVATORY**

Mrs. Walter noted that Linda Grace did an extensive study of the Bates Observatory and what should be done with it, and also what should a \$90,000.00 bequest from George Doane be used for. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen need to make a decision on how to proceed. According to Mrs. Grace's study, the building is unsafe, and \$90,000 is not enough money to make it sound. She

and the Historical Society believe that the tower should be disassembled, the bricks and granite saved, and some sort of memorial built on the site.

Mr. Chabot pointed out that the town already has several old buildings that it can't take care of; we certainly don't need another one. He believes that Mrs. Grace has the right idea.

Mrs. Walter stated that she agreed. She would like to have a group of volunteers coordinate this project. The Historical Society's input would certainly be welcomed. Any resident who is interested in this project should contact the Selectmen's office.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept Mrs. Grace's report, and also the recommendations on how to proceed. So voted.

Mr. Smith asked about the current status of Mr. Doane's bequest? At one point someone had suggested using the funds for the Town House instead. Mrs. Walter stated that some research was done on this, and it would be a very complicated process to change the intent of Mr. Doane's will. The Attorney General's office would have to give permission. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Mr. Doane's will was probated in another state. There was also some feeling on the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Doane's wishes should be honored.

## **B. NET METERING PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Walter noted that the Town had previously received proposals from three companies; Solventerra, Solterra, and Nexamp. (Available in the Selectmen's office) All three companies were requested to provide their best and final offer, which they have done. The proposals will be sent to Attorney Rick Holland at Kopelman and Paige for his evaluation and recommendations. Then the various department heads will get together to make a final decision on which proposal to accept.

## **C. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Walter noted that the Town received two proposals for Emergency Notification Systems, one from Everbridge and one from OneCall. However, there is a \$500,000 budget deficit for next year, can the Town afford this? Mr. Chabot stated that we should pass on it for this year, and maybe we can join onto the school's OneCall system at a later date. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to recommend against doing this for this year. So voted.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

Ross Hubacz of Hull Forestry was present with the forest cutting plans and timber sale agreements for two parcels of Town Forest on Routes 148 and 67. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Hubacz noted that he will obtain a list from the Assessors and

mail out notices to the abutters, in addition to submitting the cutting plans to the State Forester for approval. According to Mr. Hubacz, the Town will receive a little less than \$5,000 for the wood. The land will be ready to be logged again in 10 to 15 years, at which time the lumber to be harvested will be of a higher quality, and the Town will receive more revenue. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve and sign the agreements. So voted.

#### **A. REQUEST FOR VOTE FROM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Chabot read a letter from School Superintendent John Provost asking the Selectmen to accept MGL Chapter 71, Sections 26A, 26B, and 26C relating to revolving funds for extended school programs. (Attachment #1) Mr. Chabot so moved, and Mr. Smith seconded. So voted.

#### **B. AMBULANCE UPDATE**

North Brookfield Emergency Squad Director Patrick Kiritsy was present to update everyone on the squad's financial status. Mr. Kiritsy thanked the Selectmen, Finance Committee, Fire Department and the subscribers for their financial support over the past year. Mr. Kiritsy noted that the squad provides a high quality professional service for the residents of North Brookfield.

Renee Santos, an EMT with the squad, read a letter from Joe Holway, the Chairman of the NBEMS Board of Directors. Mr. Holway thanked the Town's officials and residents for their assistance in securing the financial stability of the squad.

Mr. Smith noted that over the past year the squad has been able to make changes that have improved the financial outlook for the squad. The ability to refinance their debt, and the downsizing to one smaller ambulance instead of two larger ones have also helped reduce expenses. He congratulated Mr. Holway and Mr. Kiritsy on their efforts.

Mrs. Walter stated that people should know that this is not just a small outfit, with annual income of \$344,000 and annual expenses of \$334,000 this is a big business.

Mr. Kiritsy again thanked everyone for their assistance, especially the squad's employees for making the changes that have helped stabilize the squad's financial situation. He noted that he is always looking for EMTs, and if anyone is interested in becoming certified or joining the squad they should contact him.

#### **C. BUDGET UPDATE**

Eric Hevy, chairman of the Finance Committee, was present to update the Selectmen on the FY14 budget process. Mr. Hevy presented a sheet showing a current projected deficit of \$508,000.00 for next year. (Attachment #2) As is the case every year, the state will probably not have the final local aid numbers until much later in the year. This makes creating the Town's budget difficult.

Mr. Hevy noted that it is a challenging process each year to create a budget that addresses everyone's needs. He wants the town departments to feel comfortable coming to the Finance Committee with their problems and their vision for the future.

Mrs. Walter noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting with the Police Chief tomorrow night, and she urged Mr. Chabot and Mr. Smith to attend.

Mr. Hevy noted that there is currently one vacancy on the Finance Committee, in addition to two vacancies for alternates.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Walter stated that articles for the June 21<sup>st</sup> Special Town Meeting will be due to the Selectmen by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Leslie will send out a memo to town officials.

##### **A. REMINDER: THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7 PM IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AT 7:30 PM**

Mrs. Walter read this announcement.

##### **B. TWO PLANNING BOARD HEARING NOTICES**

Mr. Smith announced that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Senior Center to amend the zoning by-laws Section II. Definitions, to add a definition for a driveway.

Mr. Chabot announced that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing also on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:25 PM on a proposal to impose a three year moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers in North Brookfield.

##### **C. THE VFW WILL BE SELLING POPPIES DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**

Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Frank Potter that the VFW will be selling poppies during the month of May at the recycling center, Cumberland Farms, the bank and the post office.

##### **D. TOWN WIDE YARD SALE MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Mr. Smith announced that the North Brookfield PTO is sponsoring a town-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee is \$20, and maps will be available at the library on the day of the sale beginning at 7 AM.

## **E. HYDRANT FLUSHING REMINDER**

Mr. Chabot reminded residents that the Water Department will be flushing hydrants through May 17<sup>th</sup>. Discoloration of water may occur when this is done in your neighborhood.

## **F. DOG LICENSE REMINDER**

Mrs. Walter reminded residents that dog licenses are now due, and there will be a late fee after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **G. LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL ELECTION IS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Mr. Smith announced that the last day to register to vote at the June 25<sup>th</sup> state election is Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in the Town Clerk's office from 9 AM to 8 PM.

## **V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. RURAL 11 COMMUNITY MEETING**

After some discussion, it was agreed to schedule a community meeting for the Rural 11 Project for Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> during the Selectmen's meeting. Trish Settles of CMRPC estimates that the meeting will take approximately 30 – 45 minutes.

### **B. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>**

The Selectmen reviewed a draft copy of the appointments to be done on June 18<sup>th</sup> for the next fiscal year. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mrs. Walter noted that the Planning Board has offered to take on the duties of the Economic Development Commission.

### **C. ANNUAL ROAD MATERIALS BIDS JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Mrs. Walter so noted.

### **D. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT**

Leslie will contact Mr. Jenkins to schedule this before June.

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from the Bay Path Regional Vocational School that stated that due to delays in setting the state budget, the town's assessment figure may not be available until after the June town meeting.  
(Attachment #3)

There being no further business, Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant