

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 9, 2013

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mrs. Walter also present. Mr. Chabot was present remotely via cell phone. Mr. Petraitis reminded those in attendance that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2013

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

IA. APPROVAL OF INTEREST WARRANT #1052 FOR \$56,193.75 APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1053 FOR \$73,884.08 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1054 FOR \$99,474.01 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1055 FOR \$5,999.31 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #21 FOR \$285,785.59

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

IB. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present for the Public Comment Period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. CIC STORMWATER GRANT

The Selectmen reviewed an e-mail from Spencer Town Administrator Adam Gaudette informing them that because the anticipated \$200,000.00 in grant funds for the CIC Stormwater program was reduced to \$115,000.00, the steering committee has voted to have each of the thirty communities involved contribute \$2,833.00 to make up the difference. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter noted that this project will need active participation from the town. She noted that she hoped that after all of the studies and information gathering is complete there will be an opportunity to do some actual infrastructure work. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve North Brookfield's participation in this project. So voted. It was agreed to send the proposed intermunicipal agreement to Town Counsel for his input.

B. CMRPC TRAFFIC COUNT

The Selectmen had previously reviewed a letter from Kevin Krasnecky of CMRPC regarding the eight traffic count locations planned for North Brookfield this year. (Attachment #2) Highway Superintendent Gary Jean has requested an additional three

locations: East Brookfield Road north of Slab City Road, East Brookfield Road south of Ward Street, and Route 67 between Oakham Road and the New Braintree town line. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the additional three locations and forward them to Mr. Krasnecky. So voted.

C. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Selectmen at their last meeting discussed a proposal from Everbridge for a town-wide emergency notification system. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The cost for the first year would be approximately \$3,500.00. Mrs. Walter noted that she has previously expressed her reservations about potential privacy issues. She feels that the four or five departments who have requested this system should find the money within their budgets and share the cost. She noted that while she respects the opinions of those who have requested this, does the number of calls in our town justify the cost?

Mr. Chabot said that he would like to try the system for a year and see how it measures up.

Mrs. Walter noted that the School Department has their own system, perhaps they could join in as well. She asked if the Selectmen could agree that this should be a shared expense, not just one department. She asked that this be discussed again at the next meeting.

D. NET METERING TOWN MEETING ARTICLE

The Selectmen reviewed language for a town meeting article that would allow the Selectmen to negotiate a net metering deal for the Town. (Attachment #3) The language was sent by Town Counsel, and is very similar to language previously proposed by the Hampshire Council of Governments. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the language and place an article on the May Town Meeting warrant. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPOINT CHRIS DONAIS AS ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to appoint Chris Donais as the Animal Control Officer. So voted. Officer Donais was previously the assistant ACO, and is in the process of completing the ACO certification process.

B. REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

The Selectmen reviewed articles proposed for the May 10th Annual and Special Town Meetings. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the articles. So voted.

C. TOWN HOUSE UPDATE

Jeff Samuelson, the carpenter who is “remanufacturing” the Town House bell tower for the Town’s insurance company, was present to update the Selectmen and residents on his progress. Mr. Samuelson stated that he is very excited to be doing this project. Mr. Samuelson noted that he did find quite a bit of rot inside the building that was not anticipated, but that rot has now been repaired. He said that he is almost ready to poke through the roof and put the rebuilt tower in place, he has been waiting for warmer weather. Mr. Samuelson reported that he is actually ahead of schedule on the project. He brought in the finial from the top of the tower; it was originally made of tin, but was repaired with fiberglass in the 1990s. He plans to rebuild the finial from corian, and hopes to raise enough money to have it gold leafed. He encouraged anyone who is interested to stop by his home and see the progress on the tower itself.

Mr. Samuelson noted that James Grace stopped by today and gave him the sign to be placed on the building that was requested by Mass Historic. Mr. Samuelson requested permission to install the sign on the Town House itself. In addition, he would like to place pictures showing the progress of the project in the windows of the building.

Mr. Samuelson also said that he would like permission to bring the bell to his house so that it can be sandblasted, and he can rebuild the bell wheel to look like it did originally.

Mr. Samuelson said that there is a small amount of old copper that cannot be salvaged that he would like to sell for scrap and use the proceeds for the gold leafing or materials for the bell wheel.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to allow Mr. Samuelson to sell the old copper for scrap and use the proceeds for the bell wheel or the gold leaf. So voted.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to allow Mr. Samuelson to affix the sign somewhere on the building. So voted. Mr. Petraitis suggested that the Friends of the Town House group be consulted as to placement. Mrs. Walter noted that the sign needs to be securely fastened so that it doesn’t blow down.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to allow Mr. Samuelson to place progress photographs in the building windows. So voted.

Mrs. Walter noted that in 2009 the Town authorized the Selectmen to borrow up to \$104,000.00 for soil remediation at the Town House. We haven’t had to use the money because we received \$160,000.00 in grant funds through CMRPC to address the soil contamination. The only thing the Town has had to pay for is the closure of the underground storage tank (UST) on the property. This has been done, and the Selectmen have the funds available to pay for it. However, the Selectmen may come back and ask voters for permission to borrow some money in order to address the water

infiltration issues at the Town House. Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Chabot thanked Mrs. Walter, because she was the person who secured the grant funds from CMRPC that saved the Town so much money.

D. VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

Mr. Petraitis read a list of positions available in Town government, four elected positions for which there are no candidates at the May 6th Town Election, and several appointed positions. (Attachment #4)

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. RABIES CLINIC

Mrs. Walter announced that the annual rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, April 13th from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Second Chance Animal Wellness Center. The cost for vaccinations will be \$12, and the Town Clerk will be available for licensing.

B. HYDRANT FLUSHING

Mr. Petraitis read a memo from the Water Department that hydrant flushing will be done from April 22nd to May 17th. The memo cautions that the flushing may cause temporary discoloration of the water, and advises against doing laundry while such conditions exist.

C. TOWN WIDE CLEANUP DAY

Mrs. Walter announced that the Annual Earth Day town-wide cleanup day will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Residents are encouraged to pick up trash along their roads throughout the month of April, and bring it to the highway garage on the 27th from 9 AM to 3 PM for disposal. Also, American flags that need to be properly destroyed will be collected.

D. SPECIAL STATE ELECTION

Mr. Petraitis announced that the last day to register to vote at the April 30th State Primary will be tomorrow, April 10th from 9 AM to 8 PM in the Town Clerk's office.

E. THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION HAS CHANGED ITS MEETING LOCATION. THEY WILL MEET ON THE 2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM AT THE HASTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. ACCESS IS THROUGH THE REAR DOOR.

Mrs. Walter read this announcement.

F. DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE

Mr. Petraitis announced that dog licenses are now due. The cost is \$6 for dogs that are spayed or neutered, and \$10 for those that are not. There will be a late charge of \$5 after June 1st, and a late fee of \$25 after September 1st.

G. WEST SIDE SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mrs. Walter made this announcement on behalf of the Sewer Department. (Attachment #5)

Mrs. Walter presented a letter received late this afternoon from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean asking for permission to use one of the part-time employees 1 or 2 days per week while Robert Barnes is out. (Attachment #6) Mrs. Walter so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

Mr. Chabot asked for a moment of silence in memory of George Cross, who passed away over the weekend. Mr. Cross served as a Selectman, on the School Committee, and also on the Finance Committee. Mrs. Walter noted that he served on the Council on Aging as well.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Mr. Petraitis noted that the Selectmen have contract negotiations next week, but there will be a brief open session to discuss the emergency notification system.

There being no further business, at 8:10 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant