

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 23, 2013

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

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2013**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2013**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2013**
- APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2013**

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

- IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1056 FOR \$87,135.34**
- APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1057 FOR \$64,004.28**
- APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1058 FOR \$36,053.95**
- APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #22 FOR \$294,051.19**

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. SIGN CONTRACT FOR CIC STORMWATER GRANT

Mrs. Walter noted that at the last meeting the Selectmen agreed to attend the meetings for this program, and to fund the cost through this year's available funds. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with Spencer for the CIC Stormwater Grant. (Attachment #1) So voted.

B. SIGN WARRANT FOR MAY 6TH ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MAY 10TH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Selectmen reviewed the articles for this warrant. (Attachment #2) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant. So voted.

C. SIGN WARRANT FOR MAY 10TH SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Selectmen reviewed the articles for this warrant. (Attachment #3) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant. So voted.

D. SIGN CONTRACT WITH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT GARY JEAN

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve and sign the employment contract between the Town and Highway Superintendent Gary Jean. (Available in the Selectmen's office) So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Highway Superintendent Gary Jean was present to ask the Selectmen to appoint a new employee. Todd Taylor has worked for the Town as a part-time driver through the winter, and Mr. Jean asked to have Mr. Taylor appointed to replace Robert Barnes, who is retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Jean noted that Mr. Taylor will come in at the Grade 2 Equipment Operator level. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Taylor. So voted. Mr. Jean and the Selectmen thanked Mr. Barnes for his years of service.

A. SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

School Superintendent John Provost and School Committee Chairman Jim Metcalf were present to update the Selectmen and residents on progress at the school as a result of last year's investment. Superintendent Provost noted that the additional funds for the school department were used to:

- Upgrade to fiber optic internet for the schools
- Upgrade the wireless internet access at the elementary school
- Purchase 30 iPads for student use
- Begin using iStudent to facilitate communication between the parents and schools, so that parents can access up to the minute grades or disciplinary reports
- Begin a second session of preschool
- Institute a morning academy that provides an additional 40 minutes per day of instructional time
- Add college courses through the Mount Wachusett Community College

- Expand the foreign language program in the elementary and middle schools
- Add new athletic teams
- Revitalize the art program

In addition to this, Superintendent Provost reported that the school system has received a 10 year accreditation, increased the “choice in” students, and begun recruiting international students.

Plans for next year include 11 new high school courses, 150 new courses through the Virtual High School, and the purchase of more than 100 new wireless devices.

The Selectmen congratulated Dr. Provost on the accomplishments of the School District, and thanked the men for their time.

Mr. Metcalf reminded everyone that the TREP\$ program will be showcasing 85 student run businesses on the Congregational Church lawn on May 4th, during the library’s May Festival.

B. FY14 POLICE AND FIRE ACCIDENT INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a proposal from MIIA for the Town’s FY14 Police and Fire Accident coverage. (Attachment #4) The cost is \$10,221.00. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the proposal. So voted.

C. AUDIT PROPOSAL FOR FY13, FY14, AND FY15

Mrs. Walter reviewed a proposal from Dan Haynes of Scanlan and Associates for audit services for FY13, FY14, and FY15. (Attachment #5) The cost is \$12,500 for FY13, \$13,000 for FY14, and \$13,500 for FY15. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the proposal for audit services. So voted.

D. MARCH POLICE REPORT

Mr. Chabot reviewed the police report for the month of March as submitted by Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. (On file in the Selectmen’s office) The Chief reported 25 incidents and 25 arrest/summons for the month. The Chief also noted that the department will be participating in the DEA drug take back program on April 27th. Residents can turn in unused and expired medications at the station from 10 AM to 1 PM. Mrs. Walter noted that sometimes animal owners also have expired or unused prescriptions for their animals as well.

E. MEMO FROM HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean stating that he will be working on recurring drainage problems on Bell Street this summer. (Attachment #6) If time permits Mr. Jean plans to pave the road and install sidewalks.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. EARTH DAY TOWN WIDE CLEANUP

Mr. Petraitis announced that the North Brookfield Decorates Committee will be sponsoring a town-wide cleanup day this Saturday. The committee encourages residents to pick up trash on their streets during the month of April, and to bring the trash to the Highway Garage on Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM. In addition, American flags that need to be properly destroyed will be collected.

B. STATE PRIMARY TO BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM

Mrs. Walter announced that the State Primary Election to elect a replacement for former Senator John Kerry will be held on Tuesday, April 30th from 7 AM to 8 PM at the Senior Center. The election itself will be held on June 25th.

C. THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 6TH FROM 7 AM TO 8 PM

Mr. Chabot made this announcement. The polling location is the Senior Center.

D. HYDRANT FLUSHING

Mr. Petraitis read a memo from the Water Department that they will be flushing water mains from April 22nd to May 17th. Water discoloration may occur, and residents are asked to refrain from doing laundry while discoloration exists.

E. STATEWIDE POETRY READING

Mrs. Walter announced that the Haston Free Public Library will be participating in the statewide poetry reading on Tuesday, April 30th from 7 PM to 9 PM.

F. HASTON LIBRARY MAY FESTIVAL

Mr. Chabot read a memo regarding the May Festival to be held on May 4th at the library. There will be local farmers, nurseries, wineries, orchards, restaurants, food crafters and grocers selling their wares, along with live local music, a free plant swap, compost demonstration, nature crafts for children and door prizes. In addition, the TREP\$

Marketplace with over 80 student-run businesses will be taking place at the same time on the Congregational Church common across the street from the library.

G. VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

Mr. Petraitis read a list of vacancies, both elected and appointed, that are currently available for positions within town government. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Anyone interested is asked to come to the Town Offices and fill out a volunteer card.

H. DOG LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE

Mrs. Walter announced that dog licenses are currently available from the Town Clerk. The cost is \$6 for dogs that are spayed or neutered, and \$10 for those that are not. There will be a \$5 late fee after June 1st, and a \$25 late fee after September 1st.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

There being no further business, at 8:30 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant