

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JANUARY 15, 2013

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7:07 PM with Mrs. Walter also present, and Mr. Chabot present remotely via cell phone. Mr. Petraitis reminded everyone that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2013 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2013

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of December 31, 2012 as written. So voted, with Mr. Chabot abstaining because he was not present at that meeting.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2013 as written. So voted, with Mr. Chabot abstaining because he was not present at that meeting.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2013 as written. So voted

IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1036 FOR \$37,708.16 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1037 FOR \$104,768.24 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #15 FOR \$284,115.92

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

IB. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no present for the Public Comment Period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. CMRPC RURAL 11 PROJECT

Mr. Petraitis noted that the Selectmen had previously discussed this item a few weeks ago, and had decided to wait for input from the Planning Board. Mrs. Walter explained that the Planning Board is not meeting until tomorrow night, but they should have a recommendation for the next Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Petraitis stated that he has read all of the information from CMRPC, and he believes that the Town would be giving up its voice and turning over the ability to make decisions. He said that he is inclined to vote against participating.

Mr. Chabot stated that he would like to hear what the Planning Board has to say on the subject. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda for more discussion.

B. TOWN HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

1. WORK IS BEGINNING ON BELL TOWER

Mrs. Walter noted that Jeff Samuelson has begun work inside the building. Mr. Petraitis explained that the Town's insurance company has hired Mr. Samuelson to do the work restoring the bell tower.

2. DISCUSSION RE: \$50,000 GRANT FUNDS FROM MASS HISTORIC

The Town has a \$50,000.00 grant from Mass Historic to be used for the work that the insurance company won't cover. Mrs. Walter explained that these items will be prioritized by the Selectmen as they become aware of them during the course of Mr. Samuelson's work.

3. FINAL STEP WILL BE CLOSING IN PLACE OF 1,000 GAL OIL TANK

Mr. Petraitis noted that Mrs. Walter has put in a lot of work into this portion of the Town House work, and he asked her to speak about it. Mrs. Walter reported that in early December the Town was asked to remove the 1,000 gallon oil tank from service because it failed a pressure test. A smaller tank was installed in the basement of the building. A structural engineer has advised that the tank is too close to the building to be removed, and it should be closed in place. The remediation portion of the project is closed with DEP, including water and soil testing by Fuss and O'Neill. This was all completed at no cost to the Town through the CMRPC Brownfields program. The Town is currently soliciting bids for the tank closure.

C. DISCUSSION RE: SALE OF TOWN VEHICLES

The Selectmen discussed an e-mail from Steve Woods (Attachment #1) regarding two town vehicles that he has listed on E-Bay. Another E-Bay dealer who sells fire trucks said that the Town's old pumper truck is not worth much, perhaps only \$5,000.00. In addition, Mr. Woods stated that in light of the extensive work needed on the 2004 police cruiser, as outlined in a quote from Stoneham Ford, the vehicle should be sold for scrap.

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present, and he stated that the Town of Hardwick is very interested in the old fire truck. Hardwick firefighters looked at the vehicle this past weekend, and took it for a test drive. Chief Gannon told the individuals from Hardwick that they should spend the \$1,500.00 to have the truck and ladder tested. They are going to approach a private entity about the needed funds.

Chief Gannon stated that the Town should not scrap the old fire truck, if it does not sell he could use it for training. Mr. Chabot said that he spoke to Assistant Chief Joe Holway about the fire truck, and would like to wait and see what happens with Hardwick before making a decision on the truck.

Mr. Chabot said that he thinks the cruiser should be sold as surplus the next time the Highway Department does an auction.

Mr. Petraitis suggested talking about these two vehicles again in a few weeks, after consulting with Highway Superintendent Gary Jean, and hopefully hearing something back from Hardwick.

D. REQUEST FOR FEMA REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the Sewer Department asking for \$9,140.93 to be restored to their budget from the FEMA reimbursement for the October 2011 snowstorm. (Attachment #2) The Water Department had previously requested that funds be restored to their budget as well. Mrs. Walter reported that the accountant is having problems reconciling the amount requested versus what was actually received by the Town. It was agreed to talk about this again if necessary.

E. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Mrs. Walter noted that the Town has received the final job descriptions from Kopelman and Paige (Available in the Selectmen's office) that were done through the regional cooperative group of the four Brookfields and Warren. These job descriptions are completely up to date with Massachusetts General Laws. She suggested that the job descriptions should be submitted to the relevant department heads for evaluation and input. Mrs. Walter so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FINAL 2012 REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to review his year-end report for 2012. (Attachment #3) The Chief explained that there were 174 calls for the year, 401 permits issued, and 31 false alarms.

The biggest problem, the Chief stated, is the department's dwindling numbers. He noted that it is getting harder each year to get the younger people to join. He noted that the Town's pay scale is lower than some area towns. The required training program is very time intensive, and many people with jobs and families cannot devote the necessary time. Mrs. Walter asked if other towns are having the same problems, and the Chief said definitely, people don't work in their home town anymore, so it is difficult

to get people to a fire call during the day. He asked that anyone interested in joining the department give him a call.

The Chief stated that burning season has begun, and permits are available on Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Fire Stations for \$20.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

B. DECEMBER 2012 POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Mr. Petraitis reviewed the Police Report for the month of December as submitted by Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. (Attachment #4) The Chief reported 17 incidents and 24 arrest/summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

C. SET FEE FOR BEER AND WINE ON PREMISES LICENSE

Mr. Petraitis explained that the Selectmen need to set the fee for a Restaurant Beer and Wine license. The current price for a Restaurant All Alcohol license is \$775.00. A Beer and Wine Package Store license is \$350.00, and an All Alcohol Package Store license is \$600.00. Mr. Chabot suggested charging around \$400.00 to \$450.00. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to set \$400.00 as the cost for a Beer and Wine Restaurant license. So voted.

D. MEMO FROM PLANNING BOARD RE: APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Mrs. Walter reviewed a memo from the Planning Board (Attachment #5) advising that the Planning Board voted to recommend that the Selectmen appoint an Agricultural Commission with five members. Suggestions for appointment are William King of the Planning Board, Stephen Cummings from the Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health member Catherine Strandeberg, and James Mendala and Carol Cutrumbes to represent the farmers of North Brookfield. Mr. Petraitis noted that Carl Gustafson had also expressed an interest in the committee. It was agreed to send everyone a letter, including Mr. Gustafson, asking if they are interested in serving on the committee, and then make the appointments at a later date.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. TOWN ELECTION UPDATE

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a memo from Town Clerk Sheila Buzzell regarding the May 6th Annual Town Election. (Attachment #6) Mrs. Buzzell listed the offices and incumbents that are up for re-election. The last day to file nomination papers is March 18th, and the last day to register to vote is April 16th.

B. HEARTS FOR HEAT SPAGHETTI DINNER AND PTO MOVIE NIGHT

Mrs. Walter announced that the Hearts for Heat annual Spaghetti Dinner and Movie night will be held on January 26th. (Attachment #7)

C. HANNAFORD HAS OFFERED ALL JANUARY KIOSK DONATIONS TO NORTH BROOKFIELD HEARTS FOR HEAT

Mr. Petraitis made the preceding announcement. Mrs. Walter commented that Hannaford's is always very generous to the community. Fire Chief Brad Gannon said that he would second that thought.

D. QUABOAG VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS SEEKING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and Business Assistance Corporation representative Jim Metcalf asked that the Selectmen announce that the agency is searching for a new Executive Director. An ad has been placed in local newspapers and also on Monster.com.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. HORSE POND DAM UPDATE 1/29

Water Superintendent Steve Jones will be making a Powerpoint presentation on the Horse Pond Dam rehabilitation project at the January 29th Selectmen's meeting.

B. PUBLIC HEARING RE: FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLANS 1/22

The Town Park Committee will hold a Public Hearing on three proposed Forestry Management Plans drawn up by Ross Hubacz. The three areas covered include the Town Park at the intersection of Routes 148 and 67, a parcel of land on West Brookfield Road opposite the Town Park, and the Horse Pond/Doan's Pond watershed area.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

