

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2012

Chairman Petraitis called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mr. Chabot and Mrs. Walter also present. After the Pledge of Allegiance he asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from School Superintendent John Provost (Attachment #1) that outlined some steps that can be taken to help children deal with this tragedy.

Mr. Petraitis reminded everyone that the meeting was being both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2012 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012

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

IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1031 FOR \$179,491.27 APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1032 FOR \$51,203.50 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #13 FOR \$315,636.78

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.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. TRISH SETTLES RE: RURAL 11 PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Trish Settles of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) was present to update the Board on her recent e-mail concerning the "Rural 11" prioritization project. (Attachment #2) Ms. Settles reported that within this group of 11 mostly rural towns in central Massachusetts CMRPC hopes to identify Priority Development Areas, Priority Protection Areas, and Priority Infrastructure Investments. CMRPC will work with each Town to determine its priorities, and then assess and determine those that rise to the level of regional importance and significance.

Mrs. Walter noted that one of the difficulties will be balancing the industry within some of the towns with the mostly agricultural nature of the towns. She pointed out that farmers

have always sought employment outside of their farms; there is a link between economic development and farming.

Ms. Settles asked if the Selectmen would submit a letter of support for the project to CMRPC by January 10th. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda for further discussion.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVE AND SIGN MSBA PAPERWORK

The Selectmen reviewed paperwork for the Elementary School window replacement project that is to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, (Available in the Selectmen's office) including three copies of the Project Funding Agreement, two letters from Kopelman and Paige, and a certified copy of the Town Meeting vote approving the funds for the project. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve and sign the paperwork for the Accelerated Repair Program for the North Brookfield Elementary School windows project. So voted.

B. REQUEST FROM SEWER DEPT FOR FEMA REIMBURSEMENT

Mrs. Walter noted that discussion on this item will be deferred to the next meeting because of the difficulty in reconciling the funds that were requested with the funds that were actually received.

C. JEFF SAMUELSON RE: TOWN HOUSE TOWER PROJECT

Jeff Samuelson was present to review his proposal to the Town's insurance carrier to repair the Town House Bell Tower. (Attachment #3) Mr. Samuelson noted that MIIA, the insurance carrier, is covering the cost of rebuilding the tower.

According to Mr. Samuelson, the Town House Bell Tower is a 12,000 pound piece of fine architecture. He wants to be sure that everyone understands what is happening with the project every step of the way, and he said that he is honored to be doing this project.

Mrs. Walter stated that she is confident that Mr. Samuelson has worked with Architect Dan Benoit and Engineer Rob Johnson, and with Mr. Donaldson from MIIA. She noted that the \$50,000.00 grant from Mass Historic will be used for some of the necessary structural work.

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to endorse the project as designed. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

C. APPOINTMENT OF NEW OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Senior Center Director Carol Wheeler was present to introduce the new Outreach Coordinator, Bill Salsman. She noted that everyone was sad to lose Glenn Girardi, but looked forward to working with Mr. Salsman, who has a long history of working with non-profits and the elderly. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to support the appointment of Mr. Salsman as the new Outreach Coordinator. So voted.

B. DANE FALARDEAU RE: BRICKYARD ROAD POND

Conservation Commission Chairman Dane Falardeau was present to ask the Selectmen for permission to install a water leveling device at the pond on Brickyard Road. Mr. Falardeau presented a drawing of the device that he wants to install. (Attachment #4) Mr. Petraitis asked who designed the device, and Mr. Falardeau stated that it was from the Leominster Conservation Commission. Mr. Falardeau stated that the North Brookfield Conservation Commission would maintain the device. Mr. Petraitis stated that if Mr. Falardeau can verify that the pond is in fact a wetland he would endorse the installation of the device. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve installation of the leveling device at the Brickyard Road pond, to be maintained by the Conservation Commission, pending verification that the site is a wetland. So voted.

D. INSURANCE PROPOSAL FROM MIIA

Mrs. Walter reviewed a proposal from MIIA regarding the Town's insurance coverage. (Attachment #5) MIIA is offering a 0% rate increase for FY14, and no more than a 2.5% increase for FY15. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the renewal offer from MIIA. So voted.

E. RESIGNATION FROM TOWN BEACH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chabot read a letter from Tony Zalauskas resigning from the Town Beach Committee. (Attachment #6) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret, and to send a letter of thanks. So voted.

Mrs. Walter noted that this resignation leaves only one person on the committee, two more are needed. Anyone interested should contact the Selectmen's office.

F. REQUEST FROM LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from the Library Trustees asking to have a light installed in front of the library on Main Street. (Attachment #7) According to Library Director Ann Kidd, the area is very dark, and they are concerned about people crossing

the street to go to the library. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to contact National Grid about installing a street light. So voted.

G. NOVEMBER POLICE REPORT

Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. was present and reviewed his Police Department report for the month of November, 2012. (Attachment #8) The Chief reported 14 incidents and 16 arrest/summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. HORSE POND DAM AREA IS NOW OPEN

Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail from Water Superintendent Steve Jones (Attachment #9) announcing that the Horse Pond Dam area is now open for visiting. Mr. Jones stated that the repair project is finished and all “No Trespassing” signs have been removed.

B. CHRISTMAS ON THE COMMON

Mrs. Walter reviewed a flyer from the Friends of the North Brookfield Playground and the North Brookfield High School Student Council about their “Christmas on the Common” celebration to be held on Saturday, December 22nd in the Elementary School Cafeteria. (Attachment #10)

C. TREP\$ MARKETPLACE

Mr. Chabot reviewed information for the TREP\$ Marketplace to be held during the Christmas on the Common celebration on December 22nd. (Attachment #11) Businesses run by students in grades 5 – 7 will be selling their wares, including crafts, candles, and jewelry.

D. HEARTS FOR HEAT SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Mr. Petraitis announced that the annual Hearts for Heat Spaghetti Supper and movie night will be held on Saturday, January 26th at 5 PM in the Elementary School. The cost is \$7 per person, with a limit of \$20 for a family of 4 or more.

Mrs. Walter showed off a Christmas card from Preservation Massachusetts featuring the North Brookfield Town House on the front. Mrs. Walter noted that the card was to people all over the country.

Mrs. Walter said that Bob Gailey contacted her about an architect friend, Bob Hillier, who is willing to come to North Brookfield to do some “visioning” for the town center. Mr. Hillier is willing to come on January 2nd in the morning to offer some ideas on how to

make the center of town more attractive to economic development. Mrs. Walter will let Mr. Chabot and Mr. Petraitis know more details as the time for the visit gets closer.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board will discuss the CMRPC Rural 11 proposal again at the next meeting.

Mr. Petraitis noted that the next Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, December 31st at 9 AM in the Selectmen's office, due to the fact that January 1st is a holiday.

At 8:05 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel. Roll call: Petraitis, yes; Walter, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 9:00 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant