

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JUNE 19, 2012

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

Mr. Petraitis thanked everyone who came out support Saturday's Family Fun Day on the Common, and especially Tabby and Shiela LeBlanc for their hard work in putting the event together.

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of June 5, 2012 as written. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2012 as written. So voted. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve both sets of Executive Session minutes from June 12, 2012. So voted.

IA. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1067 for \$103,586.78, General Warrant #1068 for \$62,697.99, School Windows Warrant #1069 for \$27,861.21, and Payroll Warrant #26 for \$521,684.03. So voted.

IB. There was no one present for the Public Comment Period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Conservation Commission Chairman Dane Falardeau was present to update the Selectmen on a "major breach" of a beaver dam at the pond between Brickyard Road and East Brookfield Road. The property is owned by the town. According to Mr. Falardeau, the dam was damaged on Thursday, May 31st so that the pond was nearly drained. He said that several residents called him, and the Conservation Commission got to work right away, calling the Board of Health to ask if any permits had been issued. When the Commission learned that no beaver removal permits had been issued, DEP was called in. Joseph Bellino of DEP came out to view the situation on Tuesday June 5th. Mr. Bellino asked that the dam be repaired, and the Conservation Commission asked Highway Superintendent Gary Jean to do the necessary repairs.

Mr. Falardeau reported that the fine for breaching a beaver dam and draining wetlands is up to \$25,000.00 per day. The Conservation Commission held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 6th and sent out letters to the abutters letting them know the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. Falardeau asked the Selectmen for permission to install signs at the pond letting people know that it is town property and not to damage it. The Selectmen

agreed to the signs, with the proviso that they be allowed to approve the language first.

Mr. Petraitis told Mr. Falardeau that if anything like this happens in the future, the Board of Selectmen is to be notified immediately, since the Selectmen are ultimately responsible for town property and the actions of the Conservation Commission. Any requests for the Highway Department to perform work must go through the Selectmen as well.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Paul Geurtin of Coler and Colantonio, an engineering firm, was present to ask the Selectmen if there is any interest in pursuing a grant through MassWorks for road or infrastructure repairs. Mr. Geurtin has been talking with Highway Superintendent Gary Jean for some time about the TIPS grant program for work to be done on East Brookfield Road. For both programs the Town would need to fund the needed engineering work before applying for grant funds.

Mr. Geurtin stated that the deadline for the MassWorks grants is between August 27th through September 10th, and the TIPS program has a rolling deadline.

Mr. Chabot stated that he would like to see East Brookfield Road repaired, as it is in poor condition. Mr. Geurtin acknowledged that the TIPS program is not quick, first the Town would apply to get into the program, then would be put on a list, and then have to move up the list. The entire process could take 3 – 5 years. The Town should do the engineering first to demonstrate a willingness to move forward.

Mrs. Walter asked how much do the engineering specifications change between the time a project gets on the list and is finally funded, and Mr. Geurtin stated not too much.

Mrs. Walter noted that CMRPC is looking into North Brookfield using a MassWorks grant for engineering.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Geurtin for coming in.

I. At 7:15 the Selectmen opened fuel bids for FY13. Radio Oil bid \$3.238 for gasoline and \$3.3275 for diesel fuel. R. J. McDonald did not bid on gasoline, and bid \$3.2220 for diesel fuel. Peterson Oil bid \$3.1982 for gasoline and \$3.3225 for diesel. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to take the bids under advisement and refer them to Highway Superintendent Gary Jean for his recommendations. So voted.

B. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from John Krusell resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals after 45 years. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret, and to send a letter of thanks. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a transfer request from the Highway Department to transfer \$1,500.00 from the Highway Salary Account to the Highway Road Materials Account. (Attachment #2) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the transfer. So voted.

J. The Selectmen opened the only bid received for Type 1 Bituminous concrete rolled in place, with tack coat, from Mass Broken Stone for \$68.97 per ton. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to take the bid under advisement, and to refer it to Highway Superintendent Jean for his recommendation. So voted.

The Selectmen opened bids for various road materials from Bond Sand and Gravel, F. T. Smith Company, Murray Paving, Commonwealth Guardrail, All States Asphalt, Bartlett Consolidated, Ferguson Pipe, and Mass Broken Stone. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to take the bids under advisement and refer them to Mr. Jean for his recommendations. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

B. Mr. Petraitis noted that last week the Selectmen and Finance Committee met with members of the North Brookfield Emergency Medical Squad (NBEMS). Mr. Petraitis asked if either Mrs. Walter or Mr. Chabot had any comments on the meeting, and the squad's request for an increase in the amount of their contract with the Town. Mr. Chabot suggested that the Selectmen approve a payment of \$25,000.00 for now, and after July 1st give the squad some money from the Holden Hospital Fund. Before the winter adjustments could be made to increase the contract amount. He also stated that there should be a 50/50 split on the utilities. This would "put out the fire" for now.

Mrs. Walter asked what would be the length of the contract? Mr. Chabot said probably six months and then the BOS and NBEMS would review.

Mr. Petraitis noted that the request of NBEMS was \$100,000.00, but the Town can't afford that. He stated that he is ok if the contract is signed for the \$25,000.00 now, and the Selectmen and NBEMS start reviewing ASAP so things will be able to be resolved before December.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to write a 6 month contract for \$25,000.00 to be paid in one lump sum, a 50/50 split on the electric

and oil bills, with the intent of reviewing financials and finalizing the amount by the fall. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter gave an update on a forum that she held last night regarding the flooding problems caused by beaver dams in several areas in town. Mrs. Walter noted that she sent out 25 letters to neighbors, and 21 people attended the forum. She gave those in attendance an overview of the town's role in the issue, which is to consider the impact on Tucker Road and the health of its residents. Beaver specialist Malcolm Speicher was present via cell phone, and he answered people's questions about the beavers. Many of the residents spoke about the impact of the flooding and how it has affected them personally.

Mrs. Walter noted that a water sample from the flooded area on Tucker Road has tested positive for e-coli bacteria, and there was a case of giardia reported there last year. Mrs. Walter asked those in attendance to write down their comments, and most understand the affect that the flooding can have on wells and septic systems, and on children playing in the contaminated water. In addition, many acres of hay fields and grazing land have been flooded and rendered unusable. Overall, Mrs. Walter reported, the residents were very supportive of "properly" removing the beavers.

III. NEW BUSINESS

D. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Linda Grace offering to serve as project coordinator to evaluate the future prospects of the Bates Observatory. (Attachment #3) Mrs. Grace noted that she envisions "a comprehensive, objective, and in-depth study of the landmark's history, summarizing activities to date by concerned entities and providing an assessment based on that data." The Selectmen all agreed that this would be an excellent idea. Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept Mrs. Grace's offer. So voted.

E. Mr. Petraitis reviewed an e-mail from Town Counsel Brian Riley regarding an inquiry into the possibility to changing the bequest of George Doane, who left \$90,000.00 to the Town to refurbish the Bates Observatory. (Attachment #4) Attorney Riley noted that this could be done by obtaining permission from the state's Attorney General, especially if it could be proven that the funds are not sufficient to repair the building. Mr. Chabot noted that when Mrs. Grace completes her report the Selectmen would have that information.

F. Mr. Chabot reviewed an e-mail from Treasurer Anne Jannette asking the Selectmen to ask all Town departments to submit the regularly scheduled work hours of all employees in order to confirm eligibility for the Town's health insurance. (Attachment #5) Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to send out such a memo. So voted.

Mrs. Walter said that for a future agenda item the Selectmen should discuss requiring a time sheet from all town employees, including inspectors and those that work intermittently.

G. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Trish Miller asking the Selectmen to consider writing a letter of support for an application to place the Town House on the list of Massachusetts' Most Endangered Historic Resources. (Attachment #6) There is no money involved in the designation, but it would make it easier to obtain grant funds for the building. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to draft and sign a letter of support. So voted.

H. Mr. Petraitis reviewed requests to roll over vacation time from Town Accountant Nancy Nykiel, Treasurer Anne Jannette, and Administrative Assistant Leslie Burton. (Attachment #7) Mrs. Walter noted that these three employees give a lot of time, especially this time of year with the budget process. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to allow the requests. So voted.

K. The Selectmen reviewed the list of officials to be appointed for FY13. (Attachment #8) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to appoint the list as read for the term of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, except for Veterans' Agent John Byszek, who is appointed through July 31, 2012. So voted.

L. Mr. Petraitis noted that the Selectmen traditionally start their summer schedule next week, after the Annual Town Meeting which is being held Friday night. He noted that he will be taking a class on Tuesday evenings from July 3rd to August 9th. As next Tuesday is the night before July 4th anyway, he asked if Mrs. Walter and Mr. Chabot would be willing to change the meeting to Monday July 2nd. They agreed, and also agreed to discuss what to do about the July 17th and July 31st meeting dates, which Mr. Petraitis will not be able to attend, at the July 2nd meeting.

In other business, Mr. Petraitis reported that he has spoken with Eric Rosen of Quabaug Corporation, and they have decided to list their building for sale with a commercial realtor. They will no longer be pursuing discussion with the Selectmen about the Town purchasing their office building.

In addition, Mr. Rosen did pay the \$1 for the lease of a portion of the NBDDC site on Grove Street for winter parking. Mr. Rosen indicated that Quabaug would be interested in extending that lease, knowing that sometime this summer there will be construction activity on the site.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis reminded residents that there will be a Special Town Meeting this Friday night at 7 PM in the Elementary School Auditorium.

B. Mr. Petraitis reminded residents that the adjourned session of the Annual Town Meeting will be held this Friday night at 7:30 PM in the Elementary School Auditorium. The Selectmen encouraged everyone to attend, as this is when the budget for next year is finalized.

C. Mrs. Walter reminded residents that dog licenses are now overdue. There is a \$5 late charge, but the late charge will increase to \$25 after September 1st.

D. Mr. Chabot reviewed the listing of events scheduled to celebrate North Brookfield's 200th Anniversary, including a parade and Old Home Day on August 18th, and a "Last Night" celebration on December 31st.

Mr. Petraitis noted that Dick Fiske has asked if all of the Selectmen would march in his parade this Sunday at 1 PM. This is in conjunction with Mr. Fiske's annual Heart to Heart fundraiser on the common.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. time sheets for all employees
- B. work at home policy
- c. data gathering for ambulance contract

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