

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 1, 2012

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Chabot also present.

I. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2012 as written. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the April 24, 2012 Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

IA. There were no warrants

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

### II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) inviting the Town to participate in the Accelerated Repair Program to conduct a feasibility study at the elementary school for a potential roof repair/replacement project. (Attachment #1) The Capital Improvement Planning Committee has recommended that the roof be inspected to gauge how much longer it might last. The Town would have to pay up front for the engineering and owner's project manager (OPM) services, and the proposal does not include the roof above the administration offices. Mrs. Walter noted that after some discussion with Superintendent Provost, it was agreed that the timing was not right for this project. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to wait on this for now, until after the roof is inspected. So voted.

B. As an update on the elementary school window project, Mrs. Walter noted that Building and Grounds Supervisor Peter Shipman reports that it is moving along well, and the new windows look great. The cost of the windows was more than was estimated, so we don't have enough money to finish the project. The MSBA has declined to extend funding to complete the project. Mrs. Walter and Treasurer Anne Jannette have spoken to USDA about possible funding the remaining windows, to include a grant of \$22,000.00.

Mr. Petraitis stated that he would like the MSBA to explain what happened to the original estimates, and why the project cost more than expected.

Mrs. Walter suggested that perhaps the project could be competed as part of an energy efficiency project through the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

Mr. Chabot stated that years ago he had suggested that the Town hire a carpenter. That idea might make some sense now. The carpenter could complete the window project, and could work on the Town House or other Town buildings that need work.

Mr. Petraitis noted that the idea of a Town carpenter has a lot of merit. He wondered if this might fall under the Human Resources IMA, and if Attorney Dolan would know if any other Town has done this.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to give a vote of confidence to Mrs. Walter for her work on the school windows project. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter noted that both she and Mr. Petraitis were approached by Scott Charpentier of Lenard Engineering about the town applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). According to Mr. Charpentier, North Brookfield has a very high needs score and should qualify for a block grant. Also, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) has submitted a final Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA. She said that this may be a way to get some of the infrastructure work done in town. Mr. Petraitis said that he asked Mr. Charpentier about a feasibility study on the water problems on Reed and Conroy Avenues, and Mr. Charpentier said that it would probably cost only a few thousand dollars if the Highway Superintendent works with the engineer.

D. Mr. Petraitis stated that he has not heard back from Kevin Donahue or Eric Rosen of Quabaug Corporation, but he hoped to hear this week about scheduling a meeting to discuss the report of the Quabaug Building Study Committee.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Treasurer Anne Jannette asking the Selectmen to allow her to pursue the refinancing of some outstanding debt for the Town. (Attachment #2) Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion that in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer be authorized to provide for the sale and issuance of refunding bonds under G.L. c.44, Sec. 21A to refund all or any portion of the remaining principal of and any redemption premium and interest on any of the Town's bonds that are outstanding as of the date of this vote, provided that no such refunding bonds shall be issued under this vote unless and until the final interest rate(s) and other terms of such refunding bonds have been approved by this Board. So voted.

B. The Selectmen reviewed a memo from Police Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. proposing a schedule for replacing vehicles over the next few years. (Attachment #3) Mrs. Walter noted that the Capital Improvement Planning

Committee is looking at this schedule, and has suggested that the Town create a vehicle purchase account, or a separate stabilization account for capital purchases.

C. Mr. Petraitis read an e-mail from Ann Kidd (Attachment #4) asking that the Selectmen approve the hiring of Roger Davis, 16 Sunset Drive as library custodian. Mr. Petraitis so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Chabot read a list of vacancies on Town Boards. (Attachment #5) Mrs. Walter noted that the two members of the Alternative Energy Study Committee have asked that the committee be disbanded since there have been no new volunteers. Mr. Petraitis so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

B. Mrs. Walter reminded everyone that this Friday night there will be a Special Town Meeting at 7 PM to vote on the Bay Path Vocational School building renovation project. Also, at next Monday's Annual Town Election there will be a question asking for approval of the project financing.

C. Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be an informational meeting tomorrow night, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bay Path at 6:30 PM for everyone who would like a tour of the school and an explanation of the proposed renovation.

D. Mr. Chabot read a memo from the Water Department informing residents that they will be flushing hydrants in town from now until May 25<sup>th</sup>.

E. Mrs. Walter reviewed the schedule of events for the Town's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mrs. Walter noted that last week's presentation on North Brookfield and the Civil War was awesome. She also noted that there is a lot planned for the Town's Memorial Day celebration on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

F. Mr. Petraitis announced that volunteers are still needed for all of the anniversary events. Interested people should contact Trish Miller or Mary Ellen Kuzmeski.

G. Mr. Chabot announced that there will be a quilt show as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, and anyone who has a quilt with a North Brookfield connection should contact Betty Wuelfing at 867.7424.

H. Mrs. Walter announced that tickets are available for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Dinner Dance to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Center.

I. Mrs. Walter announced that there will be a town-wide yard sale on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The cost to register is \$15.

Mr. Chabot asked residents to make an effort to clean up their yards and homes in honor of the town's 200<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Walter noted that there are two industrial properties in town that are up and running, the former Optovac and J Mac properties, and Techo-Bloc is moving right along.

At 7:40 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the town's negotiating position. Roll call: Walter, yes; Petraitis, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:10 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant