

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 29, 2012

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

I. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 22, 2012 as written. So voted.

IA. There were no bill warrants or payrolls.

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sewer Commissioners Charlie Haddock, Don Smith, and John Farmer were present along with Sewer Superintendent Rodney Jenkins to discuss an F-350 truck that is being replaced. The Commissioners had originally offered the surplus vehicle to other Town departments as is customary, but then changed their minds and decided to put it out for sealed bids instead. According to Mr. Jenkins, the vehicle could fetch as much as \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00, which would be returned to the sewer users. Mr. Haddock stated that they did not want to give the vehicle to another Town department because of the poor condition of the frame. Mr. Chabot noted that he saw the underside of the vehicle when it was up on a lift, and it is not worth repairing.

Mrs. Walter asked the Commissioners why they had sent a letter in March offering the vehicle to any Town department for \$1,500.00? Mr. Jenkins said that he had originally recommended a price of \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00, but he did not expect that any one would want it. Mrs. Walter replied that the Highway Department did indicate to the Sewer Department that they would be very interested in the vehicle. The vehicle does have value to the Highway Department.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to allow the Sewer Commissioners to put the F350 truck out for sealed bids. So voted, with Mrs. Walter voting no.

B. Police Chief Aram Thomasian was present to talk to the Selectmen about his plan to move two part-time officers up to full-time for FY13. He noted that the two officers, Brandon Fullam and Kendall Perrault, are both currently working full-time hours. The majority of the funding for the two positions will be coming from within the police budget.

The Chief noted that the officers need to be appointed to full-time status as soon as possible in order to get into the academy. Both men will pay for their own academy training, and have already paid for the medical exams. The men will attend the academy at two different times, because the Chief's overtime budget will not allow both to go at the same time.

Mrs. Walter stated that she would like to wait a week before appointing the officers.

Mr. Petraitis asked the Chief if he was sure that he would be able to fund this out of his budget. The Chief stated that he should only need \$15,000.00 additional in the FY13 budget, and he will be returning approximately \$12,000.00 from his FY12 budget back to the Town.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint Brandon Fullam and Kendall Perrault as full-time officers. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter noted that last week the Selectmen discussed a proposal from Malcolm Speicher to remove beavers that are affecting the Tucker Road area. The \$4,000.00 cost will be able to be found in this year's budget.

Mr. Chabot stated that right now this is the only alternative to abandoning the road, and the pollution caused by the beavers is not healthy.

Mrs. Walter noted that she would like to schedule a public forum for those residents who are being affected by the beaver problems before the June 22nd Town Meeting. She will announce the date of the forum next week.

D. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Edith Doane dated February 8, 2012 in which she says that she would endorse transferring money left by her brother George Doane to the Town for the repair of the Bates Observatory to another Town project if that would be possible. Mr. Petraitis stated that he personally is not comfortable trying to change Mr. Doane's bequest, and it probably would be costly to do so.

Mrs. Walter said that it might not be too expensive to ask Town Counsel to look at the letter and give an opinion.

Mr. Chabot moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to forward the letter to Town Counsel and ask for an opinion and an estimate of the cost to change Mr. Doane's bequest. So voted.

E. Mr. Chabot stated that it would be nice to have the Town House painted before the August 18th parade. Mrs. Walter stated that she would contact the Mass Historical Commission about what type of paint should be used. She noted that she spoke with Glen Waugh, the last person who painted the building,

and he stated that it is lead paint. Remediation could be costly. Also, repairs to the building need to be made as the painting is done. Mr. Chabot stated that it might be cheaper to remove all of the clapboards and replace them instead of scraping them.

F. The Friends of the Town House have withdrawn their request to use the Town House on August 18th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from David Lloyd, Director of the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for EPA, informing the Town that a 4th EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant has been awarded for \$200,000.00. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Everyone agreed that this is great news for the Town, and should finally complete the project that has been going on for over twenty years.

B. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a proposal from MIIA, the Town's insurance carrier, to renew the Police and Fire coverage for FY2013. This includes the Injured on Duty (IOD) coverage for active duty police officers and volunteer firefighters. The quote is \$11,888.00. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve and sign the quote. So voted.

C. Mr. Petraitis explained that John Lane has proposed swapping a piece of land that he owns next to the school for a piece of Town-owned land behind his house on Hillside Avenue. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to ask Mr. Lane to attend next week's meeting. So voted.

D. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Lucinda Thompson stating that she does not want to be reappointed to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the resignation. So voted.

E. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Laurie Lapierre stating that she would like to be appointed to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Mrs. Walter so moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded. So voted.

F. Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club (Available in the Selectmen's office) stating that they are opposed to a Frisbee-golf course on town-owned land on West Brookfield Road. Mr. Petraitis noted that he appreciates their concern, and the Selectmen will consider everything before a decision is reached. He personally has played on more than one Frisbee-golf course, and there is no damage or impact to the environment.

Mrs. Walter asked about potential danger to people walking near the course, and Mr. Petraitis stated that in his experience the courses don't get very crowded, and it would difficult to miss a walker or a Frisbee thrower.

Mrs. Walter stated that there are locations that are better suited for this.

Mr. Chabot stated that all of this discussion is premature, no decisions have been made. He said that a Frisbee golf course will not take up a 40 or 50 acres of the site. He would like to look at other sites.

G. Chief Gannon was not able to be present, but will come in next week.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis announced that dog licenses are now overdue. There will be a \$5 late charge after June 1st, and a \$25 late charge after September 1st.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed the list of events scheduled to celebrate North Brookfield's 200th anniversary, including a special program about the North Brookfield High School to be held tomorrow night.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. The Quabaug Corporation lease of town-owned land for parking on Grove Street

B. Mr. Lane's land swap proposal

C. Edith Doane letter

At 8:05 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to conduct contract 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 8:35 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