

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 10, 2012

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM in the Senior Center with Mr. Petraitis also present. Mr. Chabot was present remotely via cell phone.

Mrs. Walter informed those present that the meeting was being videotaped.

I. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2012 as written. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the March 27th Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1052 for \$65,530.77, General Warrant #1053 for \$106,188.28, and Payroll Warrant #21 for \$268,841.91. So voted.

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter reviewed minutes of the March 22nd regional Selectmen's meeting. (Attachment #1) She noted that Peter O'Connell of the Brookfield Board of Selectmen has proposed a more formal structure, whereby there would be officers of the regional committee. Mrs. Walter reported that she has been nominated as the group's chairman, but has not accepted. She has asked for administrative support to be paid from the \$500 that each town that was going to pay toward the regional purchasing agreement.

Mr. Petraitis stated that in his opinion that is a lot of work for one person, he said that perhaps designating one clerk to help keep the paperwork straight would be a good idea, but he likes the idea of rotating the chairmanship among which ever town is hosting the meeting.

Mr. Chabot stated that he doesn't want Mrs. Walter to get burned out by taking on too much work, but if she wants to do this she will have his full support.

Mrs. Walter stated that at the next regional meeting scheduled for later this week she will ask for a clarification of the duties of the chairman.

B. Mr. Petraitis stated that he was not ready to discuss the recommendations of the Quabaug Building Study Committee. He said that he just has not had time to read the full report yet. He asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to send a note to Moderator Gene Caille asking that the committee be dissolved. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to call a Special Town Meeting for Friday, May 11th at 7 PM. So voted.

B. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to sign and post the warrant for the May 4th Special Town Meeting. So voted. (Available in the Selectmen's office) This meeting is to vote on the proposed renovation project at the Bay Path Regional Vocational School.

C. Mrs. Walter read a letter from James Metcalf resigning from the Economic Development Committee. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the resignation and send a letter of thanks. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from Robert Locatelli resigning from the Economic Development Committee. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the resignation and send a letter of thanks. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis stated that he would like to comment on Mr. Locatelli's comment that existing town staff could do some of the duties of the Economic Development Committee. In Mr. Petraitis' opinion, existing staff is busy doing their own jobs. This is why the Selectmen establish committees; to look into any particular subject and not place additional burdens on town staff.

Mrs. Walter commented that the Town as a whole needs to consider how to become more "business friendly," and how to revitalize existing or vacant business property. She stated that there are still people on this committee who are dedicated to doing this.

D. The Selectmen reviewed an estimate from Stoneham Ford (Attachment #2) for the refurbishment of the 2004 Crown Victoria police cruiser. Mr. Chabot commented that they are doing a lot of work for the price of \$14,500.00. Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen should discuss this with the Police Chief to ask for his input. Mr. Chabot said that perhaps the Fire Chief could take a refurbished cruiser instead of purchasing a new vehicle.

Mr. Petraitis asked if other towns have done this. Mrs. Walter noted that Gardner probably has done the most vehicles. She has spoken to the Mayor of Gardner, and he was very enthusiastic about this program. She noted that Rutland has also done several vehicles.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to go forward with this. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis read a hearing notice from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding a hearing on the application of Jason Moiles for relief from front setback requirements at 37 Mill Road. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The hearing will be held on April 11th at 7 PM at the library.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed a list of vacancies in town offices (Available in the Selectmen's office) She noted that the Selectmen will continue to announce this at every meeting until the positions are filled.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed the list of offices up for election at the May 7th Annual Town Election. He reminded everyone that the last day to register to vote at the election and the May 11th Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 19th from 9 AM to 8 PM in the Town Clerk's office.

D. Mrs. Walter announced that the annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28th at the Second Chance Animal Wellness Center. The cost is \$12, and the Town Clerk will be available for licensing.

E. Mr. Petraitis reminded residents that burning permits are available at the Fire Station on Saturday and Sunday mornings until April 30th. The cost is \$20.

F. Mr. Petraitis announced that there will be an informational session on May 2nd at 6:30 PM at Bay Path Vocational School for those people who are interested in learning about the proposed building renovation project.

G. Mrs. Walter announced that the Water Department will begin hydrant flushing on April 23rd and continue until May 25th.

H. Mrs. Walter reviewed the schedule of events for the 200th anniversary, including a presentation on the Civil War to be held on April 27th at the Elementary School.

I. Mr. Petraitis announced that students from the North Brookfield Elementary School will present their businesses on Saturday, May 5th at the Congregational Church, in conjunction with the library's May festival.

J. Mrs. Walter announced that North Brookfield Decorates has cancelled their Earth Day activities that had been scheduled for April 28th. The committee

asks instead that residents make a concerted effort on that day to pick up the trash on their own roads and dispose of it correctly.

Mrs. Walter stated that the railroad project is moving forward, and the Selectmen should have some news in the next few weeks.

There being no further business, at 7:55 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to litigation, and to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining. 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 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