

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 27, 2012

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6:10 PM with Mr. Petraitis also present. Mr. Chabot was present remotely via cell phone.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of meeting with counsel to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, and to conduct collective bargaining with representatives of the North Brookfield Highway Department. Roll call: Walter, yes; Petraitis, yes; Chabot, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session and reconvene for their regular meeting at 7 PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:45 PM. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to recess until 7 PM.

At 7 PM Mrs. Walter called the meeting back to order. She reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

I. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2012 as amended. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve March 13, 2012 Executive Session minutes as written. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve the March 15, 2012 Executive Session minutes as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to approve School Warrant #1048 for \$107,286.79, General Warrant #1049 for \$1,011.41, General Warrant #1050 for \$337,250.29, and Payroll Warrant #20 for \$271,781.23. So voted.

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to place a Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion before the voters by having a Special Town Meeting on Friday, May 4th, and a question on the May 7th Annual Town Election ballot. So voted. This is for the Bay Path Vocational School building project that was discussed last week.

B. Last week the Selectmen reviewed a letter from RCAP Solutions asking if the Town would be interested in participating in a septic loan program. The Selectmen have since learned that the Board of Health has received the same letter and is reviewing the proposal. Mr. Petraitis stated that he would like

to hear from the Board of Health on this before making a decision. It was agreed to table this letter for future discussion.

C. Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from Highway Superintendent Gary Jean (Attachment #1) that was written in response to a letter from several residents of Bell Street complaining about the condition of their road. Mr. Jean noted that he is aware of the problems, and it is a combination of several issues that will be difficult to resolve. Mr. Jean stated that he plans to complete repairs to the road by the end of next year's paving season. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to send a copy of Mr. Jean's letter to all of the residents who signed the complaint letter. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Economic Development Commission member Jim Metcalf was present to introduce three North Brookfield Elementary School children who are participating in an after-school program that teaches business skills. The program is a partnership with the EDC and the PTO, and has 72 children participating. The children are developing business plans to launch their own business providing either goods or services. The first two children, Henry and Andrew, have a partnership agreement to produce bracelets made from parachute cord, and Timothy was present to speak about his business called "Magic Garden," which sells flower bulbs, herbs and vegetables.

Mr. Metcalf noted that on May 5th from 10 AM to 2 PM all of the participating students will hold an open house at the Congregational Church to present their businesses. A representative from the Governor's office will be present for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Selectmen complimented the students on their presentations, and wished them luck with their businesses.

B. Arthur Fontaine and Lori Granat-Dupell of the Quabaug Building Study Committee were present with their final report on the potential purchase of Quabaug Corporation office building on School Street. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Mr. Fontaine and Ms. Granat-Dupell, along with committee member Steve Cummings, reviewed the facts and figures on the cost of purchasing and renovating the Quabaug building versus the cost of staying with the current town buildings. The committee acknowledged that there is no comparable building in Town, but after a very thorough presentation, the committee recommended that the Town forgo the opportunity to purchase the building. The Selectmen thanked the committee for their time and the excellent job researching this situation. Mrs. Walter noted that this was a much needed analysis that was done in a very timely manner. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

C. Mrs. Walter reviewed a letter from James and Lisa Grace of 343 North Main Street regarding Statz Restaurant, which is located at 341 North Main Street. (Attachment #2) The Graces noted that when the previous owner of the business was given permission to serve alcohol on an outdoor deck, there were four conditions made; first, that the deck be enclosed by a 6' minimum fence, second, that there be no outside service after 10 PM, third, that there be no outside bar setup, and finally, that there be no access to the parking lot from the deck. Mr. and Mrs. Grace noted that the last two conditions are being complied with, but the deck area is not fenced, and also that there are occasions when patrons on the deck are making noise after 10 PM.

Mrs. Walter noted that the new business owner may not be aware of these conditions, and Mr. Petraitis noted that as a courtesy the Selectmen should speak with the owner. Mrs. Walter suggested that the new owner be given a time frame in which to comply, giving him adequate time to obtain a building permit, etc. It was agreed that Mr. Petraitis will speak with the new owner about this problem, and that the Selectmen will discuss this again.

D. Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Julie McCarthy of North Brookfield Decorates requesting permission to use the Highway Department grounds on Saturday, April 28th from 9 AM to 3 PM. (Attachment #3) This is in conjunction with the annual town-wide cleanup day, and trash removed from various roads in town will be placed in town trucks to be taken to the transfer station. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to grant permission. So voted.

E. Mrs. Walter reviewed two e-mails from Ms. McCarthy, one asking to use the Town House on Saturday, August 18th to sell fundraising items, and another one asking for permission to hang a flag on the outside of the building. (Attachments # 4 and #5) Mrs. Walter noted that the Selectmen really should discuss a policy on the utilization of the Town House. She noted that the Fire Chief has concerns about the safety of anyone using the building, and the Building Inspector urged that it be used cautiously on a case by case basis.

Mr. Petraitis noted that he would be ok if Ms. McCarthy's group used the old Senior Center in the building, but the Selectmen need to prevent any access to the rest of the building. Mrs. Walter said that she would be concerned about children not being properly supervised and accessing the rest of the building as well. She also stated that if the Selectmen grant permission for the use of the building, the requests for use will only increase. It was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting.

On the subject of the request to hang a flag and bunting on the building, Mr. Petraitis stated that he would like to know what time frame Ms. McCarthy is looking for, and how they plan to affix the flag to the building.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mr. Petraitis read an announcement from the Zoning Board of Appeals that they will be having a public hearing on Wednesday, April 11th at the Haston Library on the application of Jason Moiles for a front setback variance at 37 Mill Road.

B. Mrs. Walter reviewed the list of candidates for office at the May 7th Annual Town Election. (Available in the Town Clerk's office) The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, April 17th from 9 AM to 8 PM.

C. Mrs. Walter announced that the annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28th at Second Chance Wellness Center from 9 AM to 11 AM. The cost is \$12, and the Town Clerk will be available for dog licenses.

D. Mr. Petraitis noted that burning permits are available at the Fire Station on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8 AM to noon until April 30th. The cost of the permit is \$20.

E. Mr. Petraitis read a list of vacancies on town boards and committees. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Anyone interested should contact the Selectmen's office.

F. Mrs. Walter read through a list of events that are scheduled for the 200th Anniversary celebration. (Attachment #6)

G. Mrs. Walter noted that the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Church that is normally open on the 1st Thursday of each month from 6 PM to 7:30 PM will be open on Wednesday, April 4th instead, because of Holy Thursday.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Mrs. Walter noted that the FY13 budgets have been submitted by department heads. The Selectmen and Finance Committee will be meeting weekly when necessary during this budget season.

There being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant