

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JULY 26, 2016**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Hevy and Mr. Kiley also present. She reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **June 28, 2016 Executive Session**
- **July 19, 2016**

Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

### **II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

- **General Warrant #1003 for \$265,966.34**
- **Payroll Warrant #2 for \$214,304.73**

Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned warrants. So voted.

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- **The public has the opportunity to briefly comment on agenda items through the Chairman**

Mrs. Walter reminded those in attendance that they would have the opportunity to briefly comment on any of this evening's agenda items.

### **IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### **A. Statewide salt contract**

Mrs. Walter reviewed a state contract for the purchase of road salt for FY17. (Attachment #1) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Status of solar project lease**

Mrs. Walter noted that the town's legal counsel and Melink are continuing to work on the solar leases. They are very close to completion.

#### **B. Discuss duties of Highway Superintendent Search Committee**

The Selectmen reviewed a packet of information to be given to members of the Highway Superintendent Search Committee, including a job description and information from town counsel regarding the applicability of the Open Meeting Law and screening committees. (Attachment #2) It was agreed to see if the committee members would be able to attend the August 9<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting for their kickoff meeting. Also, the Selectmen will discuss a salary range and benefits for the new superintendent at their next meeting.

### **C. Commission on Disabilities**

The Selectmen have received two additional volunteers to serve on a local Commission on Disabilities. (Attachment #3) The state recommends a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine. It was agreed to continue to ask for volunteers and appoint them all when there are at least five members.

### **D. Request to use Senior Center**

The Selectmen reviewed an e-mail from Senior Center Director Diane Nichols regarding a request from "Pathways for Change" to use the senior center to provide counseling. (Attachment #4) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to leave this up to Ms. Nichols' discretion. So voted.

### **E. Finalize wording for 07/29 STM motion**

The Selectmen reviewed e-mail correspondence between Treasurer Anne Jannette and Jay Mooney from the school regarding the wording of the motion for Friday night's Special Town Meeting. (Attachment #5) It was agreed that since the Town does not have \$60,000.00 available, and it should not be taken from the Stabilization Account, the money will have to be borrowed.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Diane Nichols re: regionalization**

Senior Center Director Diane Nichols was present to deliver a report to the Board about the functions of the Senior Center, and her thoughts on regionalization. (Attachment #6) Mr. Hevy asked what percentage of North Brookfield Seniors are serviced through the Senior Center, and Ms. Nichols said 10%. The statewide average is 3.5%. Mrs. Walter asked if Ms. Nichols had attended a meeting held by CMRPC in Rutland regarding regionalization, and Ms. Nichols said that she had attended that meeting. She feels as though there is more opportunity for collaboration among the various senior centers rather than regionalization. She noted that North Brookfield already shares outreach services with East Brookfield and Brookfield.

### **B. E-mail from Dennis and Simone Trela re: medical marijuana facility**

Mr. Kiley read a letter from Dennis and Simone Trela asking that any agreement between the Town and Healthwise regarding a marijuana cultivation and distribution facility specify that the site will be used for medical marijuana only, not recreational, should it become legal this November. (Attachment #7) Mrs. Walter noted that Healthwise has contacted Mr. and Mrs. Trela, and they also plan to meet with all of the neighbors very soon.

### **C. Planning Board request for Town Counsel**

Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Bill King, Chairman of the Planning Board, asking for permission to contact town counsel regarding the procedure for placing an article on a town meeting warrant that would request a moratorium on commercial solar arrays. (Attachment #8)

Mr. King was present, and Mr. Kiley asked what is the purpose of the moratorium? Mr. King stated that the Planning Board recently approved a solar facility on West Brookfield Road where the abutters raised some concerns about the look of the facility and their right to enjoy their own property. The site is approximately 6 acres that will be clear cut to make way for the panels. The Planning Board wants to study the current by-law to make sure abutters are protected.

Mr. Kiley asked if the Planning Board is trying to go around the town meeting vote regarding the municipal solar sites? Mr. King said that they are not. Mr. Kiley said that he is not sure that the current by-law needs to be revisited after only being in effect for four years. Mr. Kiley stated that the Planning Board does not need a moratorium in order to do a study, and should not need to contact town counsel in order to request information on the process for placing an article on a town meeting warrant. Mr. Kiley also noted that the Selectmen do appreciate that the Planning Board is trying to balance the concerns of the abutters and the property owners.

Water Superintendent Rich Kennan was present, and told Mr. King that he has attended all of the meeting with many town officials about the municipal solar projects, and everyone involved has been concerned about being good neighbors. Everyone has the town's best interests at heart, but we need to generate some much needed revenue for the town.

Mr. Hevy said that he is not in favor of a moratorium; the Planning Board can do a study without the moratorium. A moratorium would severely jeopardize much needed revenue.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Reminder, Special Town Meeting Friday night at 7 PM**

Mr. Hevy reminded residents that there will be a Special Town Meeting this Friday night at 7 PM to discuss borrowing \$60,000.00 for a feasibility study that would study the need to replace the school roof.

### **B. Substance Abuse Task Force meeting Thursday at 7 PM**

Mrs. Walter announced that the North Brookfield Substance Abuse Task Force will hold a meeting in the Police Station training room this Thursday at 7 PM.

### **C. Movie night and camp out**

Mr. Kiley read an e-mail from the Playground Committee announcing that they will be hosting a movie night and campout Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 PM on the Town Common.

## **VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- See attached list

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

There being no further business, at 7:50 PM Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant

#### **PROJECT STATUS AND PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **PROJECT**

NBDDP/Aztec  
Solar contracts on Municipal Property  
Purchase Orders  
Creation of Financial Advisory Committee  
Personnel policies  
Cemetery Road / Bell Street Paving Project  
Analysis of Bids on health insurance  
98 Shore Road  
Electric aggregation  
Community Compact projects  
IT Grant  
Fire Truck Grant  
Website project  
Town House restoration project  
launched 050916  
Lashaway/ Great Pond designation  
Requests for AEDs

##### **STATUS**

BOS - Planning final remediation  
BOS – with legal counsel  
IT/Accounting Software/Access  
Awaiting Comm Compact Recs  
Discuss HR Committee  
Highway  
Finance Committee  
BOS for discussion  
Final vote pending  
Awaiting final reports  
Awarded  
Bids due August 1<sup>st</sup>  
Website in production phase  
FOTH Capital Campaign  
  
Awaiting DEP response  
Pending