

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AUGUST 9, 2016

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **July 26, 2016**

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

- **July 26, 2016 Executive Session**

Mr. Hevy moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted, with Mr. Kiley abstaining because he was not present at this meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **Debt Warrant #1004 for \$296,739.71**
- **School Warrant #1005 for \$39,978.94**
- **General Warrant #1006 for \$60,439.92**
- **Payroll Warrant #3 for \$220,412.79**

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 informed those present that they would be able to comment on any of the evening's agenda items.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

There were no financial reports.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Status of solar project lease

Mrs. Walter reported that the solar leases are still in process with the attorneys.

B. Discuss Highway Superintendent salary and benefits

Mrs. Walter noted that at their last meeting the Board agreed to set a salary range for the new Highway Superintendent. Mr. Kiley said that he would be comfortable with a range of \$45,000 to \$55,000. Mr. Hevy said that he wanted more time to consider this.

C. Street sweeper purchase

Mrs. Walter noted that the Town has no money set aside to pay a contractor to sweep the roads. We will have to go to town meeting for the funds to pay a contractor. Mr.

Kiley said that in his opinion we have streets in town that need work more than they need sweeping. He plans to call Mass DOT on whether or not Chapter 90 funds can be used to hire a contractor to sweep. Mr. Hevy pointed out that the Highway Department sweeps roads more frequently than just three weeks in the spring.

D. Letter from Planning Board re: use of legal counsel

Mr. Kiley read a letter from the Planning Board stating that member Doug Powers would like to speak with the town's legal counsel about amending the solar by-law. (Attachment #1) Mr. Kiley noted that there is an already defined process for amending a by-law, and the Planning Board should not need to talk to town counsel about that.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Chief monthly report

Police Chief Mark Smith was present to deliver his report for the month of July. (Attachment #2) The Chief reported 20 incidents and 22 arrests and summons for the month. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Mr. Kiley asked the Chief if he had heard of any problems at the Town Beach, and the Chief replied that the officers are checking the beach area as a part of the regular patrols, and there have been no major problems.

B. Safety Committee re: Tucker Road

Chief Smith was joined by Fire Chief Brad Gannon, and on behalf of the Safety Committee they reported that everyone agreed that Tucker Road should be kept open if at all possible. Chief Gannon stated that the Fire Department and EMS have avoided Tucker Road for the past year. He said that it would be helpful if Tucker Cross Road could be smoothed out.

Mrs. Walter reported that the problem on Tucker Road is the beavers. The Town removed the beavers two years ago, and advised the abutters that they needed to keep up with removing the beavers from their property. Mr. Kiley reported that he has spoken with Michael O'Hara of Mass DOT and Chapter 90 funds can be used for beaver removal.

C. Brookfield Orchards request for liquor license

Mr. Hevy reviewed an application from Brookfield Orchards for a liquor license on September 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and October 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10. (Attachment #3) Rapsallion Brewery of Sturbridge will be offering craft beer on those dates. The Orchard included proof of their liability and liquor liability insurance coverage. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the special license. So voted.

D. Still Hart's request for liquor license

Mr. Kiley read an e-mail from Still Hart's Café owner Jeff Bennett asking to extend their liquor license to the rear parking lot on August 20th. (Attachment #4) There will be a corn hole tournament on the Town Common on that date. The Selectmen agreed to

table this item until the next meeting since there was no representative from Hart's present. The Board also expressed concern over how Still Hart's plans to keep their patrons from going onto town property with drinks.

E. Request to designate Sewer Commissioners Special Town Employees

Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from the Sewer Department asking that the Sewer Commissioners be made Special Town Employees. (Attachment #5) One of the commissioners also serves on the town's Fire Department, and according to the Ethics Commission, he can only receive one salary from the town unless he is a Special Town Employee. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to make the Sewer Commissioners Special Town Employees for as long as Mr. Farmer is a commissioner. So voted.

F. Fire Chief re: Fire truck bids

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present with the bid results for a new fire truck that were received last week. (Attachment #6) There was only one bid, from Ferrara Fire Apparatus, for \$473,832.00. There were some other items that were listed as alternates that the Chief will be able to add up to the \$495,000.00 that was authorized by town meeting. Most of this amount is covered by grant funds.

G. Trish Settles re: regionalization

Trish Settles and Janet Pierce of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission were present to speak with the Selectmen regarding the Community Compact project on regionalization. (Attachment #7) Ms. Settles noted that CMRPC sent out a survey to area towns to see where towns wanted to share services, and North Brookfield indicated that their top three choices were Senior Services, IT Services, and to revisit the regional Selectmen's group from a few years ago.

Mrs. Walter, who was active in the Selectmen's group, said that the group had always talked about a Council of Governments type of structure that would benefit the small towns. She noted that when talking about collaboration, it needs to be cost effective and a benefit to all of the towns, not just a few.

Mrs. Walter asked how many of the towns that have used CMRPC's planning services have elected planning boards, and MS. Pierce said that all of the towns did, and it has been a very successful program.

Mr. Hevy said that he would like to see examples of how other towns have shared services. Ms. Settles said that she would e-mail some examples.

Mr. Kiley said that if CMRPC comes across any interesting opportunities that would seem a good fit for North Brookfield he would like to hear about it.

H. Petition from neighbors of 14 Evergreen Street

Lee Moody of 10 Evergreen Street was present with a petition to his neighbors, the Reillys at 14 Evergreen Street. The petition asks that Mr. and Mrs. Reilly clean up their yard and keep their farm animals fenced in. (Attachment #8) According to Mr. Moody, a realtor told him that his home has lost \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in value because of the condition of the Reilly home.

Mr. Michael Reilly was present and said that it is true that he has animals and tall grass. He has been visited by the Board of Health, the Animal Inspector, and the Agricultural Commission. All have said that there are no problems with what he is doing, and no further action was required. Mr. Reilly said that he wishes Mr. Moody had come and talked to him about this.

Mrs. Walter said that the Selectmen have all of the documentation from the town officials who have visited the Reilly home. All had no issues with the Reillys. The Selectmen consider that the final disposition of the issue. This is a civil dispute.

Mr. Hevy agreed that everything indicates that there are no problems and no violations, and that no further action by town officials is required.

Mr. Kiley said that there is no authority of the Selectmen that would require Mr. Reilly to clean up his yard. He agreed that this is a civil matter.

I. Letter from Doug Powers re: Host Agreement

Mr. Hevy read a letter from resident Doug Powers asking what agreement the Selectmen have reached with the developers of a proposed medical marijuana facility on Prospect Street. (Attachment #9) Mrs. Walter noted that there have been no agreements made; the project is still in the "siting" phase with the state. When the project receives all of its approvals, then the Selectmen will negotiate an agreement that will be in the best interests of the town.

J. Sign contracts with Stantec for North Common engineering services

Mrs. Walter reviewed the contract for engineering services for the North Common project from Stantec of Northampton, MA. (Available in the Selectmen's office) Last year the design portion of the project was completed. The project is funded with a CDBG grant, and is managed by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter registration reminder

Mr. Hevy read an announcement from the Town Clerk that the last day to register to vote at the September 8th State Primary will be Friday, August 19th from 9 AM to 5 PM.

B. Tyler Wolanin office hours

Mrs. Walter noted that Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Anne Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on Tuesday, August 30th from 11AM to noon.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- See attached list

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 PM Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to collective bargaining, and also to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate. Roll call: Walter, yes; Hevy, yes; Kiley, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter stated that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:45 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. 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 1st
Website in production phase
FOTH Capital Campaign

Awaiting DEP response
Pending