

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Hevy and Mr. Kiley also present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **January 31, 2017**
- **January 31, 2017 Executive Session**

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

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1036 for \$83,727.59**
- **General Warrant #1037 for \$267,011.23**
- **Payroll Warrant #17 for \$334,013.64**

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

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Review of FY18 Budgets

It was noted that the Board of Health has now submitted their budget. Mr. Hevy asked that in light of Thursday's forecasted snowstorm, could the meeting for the selectmen to discuss budgets be moved to next week? After some discussion, it was agreed to postpone Thursday's meeting to 4 PM next Monday.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review Feb 17 STM motions

The Selectmen reviewed a draft of the motions for the February 17th Special Town Meeting. (Attachment #1) There was some discussion regarding the Fire Department request for \$14,735.00. Mr. Hevy said that he spoke with the Fire Chief, and the Chief would be willing to postpone some of the items, but he really needs a gas meter that costs \$2,435.00. It was agreed to try to find the money for the gas meter.

B. Employee Evaluation forms

The Selectmen reviewed a form to be used for employee evaluations. (Attachment #2) It was agreed to put this under old business to discuss an evaluation policy. Mr. Kiley will see if the Police Department has a policy they would be willing to share.

C. Discussion re: sweeper options

Mrs. Walter said that she is getting concerned because the time to make a decision on the purchase of a street sweeper is getting close. Mr. Kiley said that the Board voted to allow the new superintendent to make the decision, and he believes that is what should happen.

Mrs. Walter said that vote was taken when the selectmen thought there was time to let the new super make the decision.

Mr. Kiley said that a used sweeper could be purchased for \$30,000.00. He said that he would like to see the maintenance records for the current sweeper. Perhaps the current sweeper could have door seals and filters replaced.

Mrs. Walter said that she has heard people complaining about the roads. Mr. Hevy stated that he also has had people speak with him about the need for a new sweeper. Mr. Kiley said that he hears complaints about road work that is not being done that we could use Chapter 90 funds for.

Mrs. Walter said that if we are not going to use Chapter 90 funds to purchase a sweeper or hire a contractor, we need to take action to have funds available.

Mr. Kiley said that he is opposed to taking money away from the new superintendent before he has the chance to make a decision.

Mrs. Walter said that she wants a vote to make the decision to purchase a new sweeper.

Mr. Kiley said that it is not an emergency. The new superintendent will be starting by the 21st. If he decides that he wants to purchase a new sweeper Mr. Kiley will go along with that.

Mr. Hevy said that he would like the Board to meet with Mr. Benoit on the 21st to discuss this issue and let him give us his feedback on how he wants to proceed.

D. Power Management Town energy update

Michael Hedges from Power Management was present to go over the numbers for the purchase of electricity for the Town. He presented an analysis showing rates for 1, 2, or 3 year contracts to purchase electricity from a provider other than National Grid. (Attachment #3) All of the current contracts end in October of 2018. Mr. Kiley asked what would happen if the National Grid rates go lower than the rate the Town contracts for, and Mr. Hedges said that the Town would be signing a contract to pay that amount even if National Grid is lower. The Selectmen will review the information.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing @ 6:30 re: 2017 CDBG application

Chris Dunphy from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was present to conduct a public hearing on the Town's application for a 2017 Community Development Block Grant. (Attachment #4) He noted that two years ago the Town received funds to do an infrastructure study of the "Little Canada" area of Town, which showed North Common Street as one of the worst in the area. Last year grant funds were received to do design and engineering for a project to replace water mains and sewer lines, do improvements to the storm water system, and then rebuild the road and sidewalks. For this new grant

application the Town will apply for funds to do the work, estimated to cost a little over \$700,000.00. Mr. Dunphy confirmed that a contribution from the Town will be necessary for this project, and the Selectmen said that they understand that approximately \$70,000 will come from Chapter 90 funds.

Also, the Town will be participating another application with Sturbridge and Brookfield to continue the housing rehab program and to participate in an "Aging in Place" project.

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

B. John Button re: Eagle Scout project

John Button of East Brookfield was present to explain his proposal for improvements to the Lake Lashaway boat ramp on Harrington Street. (Attachment #5) He plans to install a larger sign, trim back the brush and install new landscaping. Mr. Button said that Gene Varney will donate supplies, as will Howe Lumber, and a landscaper will donate services. Mr. Button estimated the cost at \$1,100 to \$1,400, which he hopes to raise with a calendar raffle. Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the project. So voted.

C. Appointment to Finance Committee

Mrs. Walter reviewed an e-mail from Kristen Walther asking to be appointed as an alternate to the Finance Committee. (Attachment #6) Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to appoint Ms. Walter. So voted.

D. Meeting with Water Commissioners

The Selectmen reviewed an e-mail from the Water Department inviting the Board to attend the March 13th meeting of the Water Commissioners to discuss their plans to hire a third man. Mrs. Walter will speak with Mr. Kularski about this.

E. Invitation to judge PTO Crock-pot Cook-off

The Selectmen reviewed an invitation from the PTO to serve as guest judges at the PTO's March 15th crock-pot cook-off. It was agreed that each selectman will contact the PTO if he or she is interested in doing this.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Election update

Mr. Hevy reviewed a memo from the town clerk showing the offices up for election at the May 1st Annual Town Election and the current incumbents. The last day to file nomination papers is Monday, March 13th, and the last day to register to vote is Tuesday, April 11th.

B. Tyler Wolanin office hours

Mr. Kiley noted that Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Senator Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on February 28th from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

C. Vacancies on Town Boards

There are several vacancies on Town committees, including the Bates Observatory Committee and the Commission on Disabilities.

D. Dog licenses are now due

Mr. Hevy reminded residents that dog licenses are now available from the Town Clerk. Spayed or neutered dogs are \$6, and all others are \$10.

E. Benefit luncheon

Mrs. Walter announced that the Senior Center will hold a benefit lunch tomorrow for the Farrington Family, whose home was damaged in a recent fire. Donations are \$3 for seniors and \$5 for non-seniors.

VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Walter announced that the public has the opportunity to briefly comment through the Chairman, with a two-minute limit. Karen Hubacz-Kiley was present and said that she was disturbed that the Selectmen would want to purchase a new sweeper and tell residents that it is at no cost to the Town. Also, she said that the Town purchases washed sand, which has no silica. Mrs. Walter had said earlier this evening that silica dust could pose a hazard to Town workers. Mrs. Hubacz-Kiley said that the Selectmen should allow the new superintendent to make the decision on whether or not to purchase a new sweeper.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8 PM Mr. Hevy moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and also to discuss the lease of real estate. Roll call: Walter, yes; Hevy, yes; Kiley, yes. So voted. Mrs. Walter announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:30 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
98 Shore Road
Electric aggregation
Community Compact projects
 Financial Forecasting
 Capital Planning
 CMRPC/Regional Shared Services
IT Grant
Town House restoration project

Bates Observatory

STATUS

Planning Final Remediation
 Negotiating leases
pending
pending
 in progress
pending
pending

Final report delivered
Final report due June 30
in progress
in progress
 FOTH Capital Campaign
 launched 050916
pending