

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 30, 2017

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **May 16, 2017**
- **May 18, 2017**
- **May 23, 2017**

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

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1056 for \$153,232.82**
- **General Warrant #1057 for \$249,683.28**
- **Refund Warrant #1058 for \$16,040.01**
- **Payroll Warrant #25 for \$332,607.16**

Approval of these minutes will be deferred until Thursday's meeting.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Review of FY18 Budgets/Balance sheet

Mr. Hevy noted that the Selectmen and Finance Committee have reduced the FY18 projected deficit to approximately \$80,000.00. The Selectmen also reviewed the departmental balances thru the May 30th warrant to make sure no department is running short.

B. Transfer requests

The Selectmen reviewed and approved six transfer requests for various departments:

- \$1,188.00 from COA Outreach Salary to COA Program Assistant Salary
- \$2,528.00 from COA Director Salary to COA Purchase of Service
- \$3,500.00 from COA Outreach Salary to COA Purchase of Service
- \$253.00 from Water Office Supplies to Water Other Salary
- \$6,000.00 from Police Facility Expense to Police Overtime
- \$1,000.00 from Police Vehicle Repairs to Police Overtime
- \$500.00 from Police Office Supplies to Police Shift Differential

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review special town meeting article requests

The Selectmen reviewed the only article that was submitted for the June 23rd Special Town Meeting. (Attachment #2) The article calls for a transfer from available funds in the amount of \$144,205.42 to the Snow and Ice Account. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the article request. So voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Change of Manager request for St. Jean's Package Store

Mr. Hevy reviewed a request from St. Jean's Package Store to change their manager to Elizabeth St. Jean. (Attachment #3) Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the transfer and forward the application to the ABCC. So voted.

B. Letter from Marilyn Borst

Resident Marilyn Borst read a letter to the Selectmen asking for permission to bring a group of third grade students to the Town House. (Attachment #4) Mrs. Borst explained that she and Maureen Wesolaski have been working with the third graders on the history of North Brookfield, and would like to take the students on a tour of the Town House. There would be multiple chaperones in attendance. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the visit. So voted.

C. Appointment of Assistant ACO

Police Chief Mark Smith asked that Officer Sarah Dyer be appointed as the Assistant ACO. Mr. Hevy noted that we do not have a resignation from the current assistant. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Officer Dyer, pending receipt of a resignation letter from the current assistant. So voted.

D. Letter re: Town Beach

Resident Kathleen Ivanowski was present and read a letter to the Board complaining about problems at the Town Beach. (Attachment #5) Mr. Kiley noted that the Selectmen have spoken with the East Brookfield selectmen about the drainage problems at the beach. Ms. Ivanowski noted that Bud Fahey from East Brookfield and his volunteers do a great job of cleaning the beach, but there are problems with the people visiting the beach, a lot of whom are not from North or East Brookfield.

Police Chief Mark Smith was present and said that he pulled the call logs from last summer, and there were several calls from area residents. He stated that he looked at the beach today, and thinks that if certain changes were made to the signage his officers would have more authority to remove the people causing the problems.

Mr. Hevy promised that the Selectmen would bring up these issues with the East Brookfield Selectmen.

E. April Police Chief report

Chief Smith was present and reviewed his report for the month of April. (Attachment #6) The Chief reported 24 incidents and 11 arrest, summons and custody issues for the month. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

F. April Fire Chief report

Chief Gannon reviewed his report for the month of April. (Attachment #7) The Chief reported 1 structure fire and 51 burning permits for the month. He also reported that the

new fire truck won two trophies at the Tri-state Chief's meeting. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

G. Dennis Kelly re: solar projects

Resident Dennis Kelly was present and read a letter to the Board questioning the appropriateness of the town's proposed solar projects. (Attachment #8) Mr. Kelly stated that the Bell Hill site was "ill-advised and poorly planned" because of its historic value. In 1913 the state passed the Town Forest Act, and in 1962 the Oakham Road parcel was made town forest. In 1925 the town passed a town meeting article that said that all land under the control of the Water Department was to be considered town forest. Mr. Kelly believes that this includes the Bell Hill property.

Mr. Kelly said that in his opinion these projects also violate the town's zoning regulations, and he believes that the Bell Hill site should be excluded.

Mr. Kelly said that he is not against solar, but he is against "clear cutting." Mr. Kelly asked where that term came from, and Mr. Kiley said that Mr. Kelly's group is the first time the Selectmen have heard the term. There are no plans to clear cut any parcel, all of the sites will have a vegetative buffer around the solar panels.

Mr. Kelly said that he has 390 signatures on a petition against these projects. There were less than 60 people at the town meeting where these projects were approved. Mr. Kiley pointed out that a quorum at town meeting is only 10; 60 is about average for town meeting attendance.

Mr. Hevy stated that the Selectmen are not being deceptive, and are not trying to "pull" anything. The Selectmen are trying to find ways to generate revenue for the town.

Resident Doug Powers was present. He stated that as a former Planning Board member he wanted to make sure that the Selectmen understand the "bigger picture." The Attorney General's office wrote a cautionary note regarding the town's solar by-law, noting that it conflicts with state law. The Selectmen said they would look into this.

H. FS Engineering proposal

The Board reviewed a proposal from FS Engineering for work to be done on the former Aztec property related to the asbestos in the soil remediation. (Attachment #9) The cost is estimated at \$34,860.00. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the proposal. So voted.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- See attached list

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hevy announced that the public would have the opportunity to comment on any of this evening's agenda items, with a two-minute limit.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

There being no further business, at 7:45 PM Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PROJECT STATUS AND PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S AGENDA ITEMS Updated 041817

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**

Ask about COG (Insurance etc.)

**Financial Forecasting
Capital Planning**

CMRPC/Regional Shared Services

**IT Grant
Town House restoration project**

Bates Observatory

STATUS

**Planning Final Remediation
Quaboag Compiling info on
Property Use**

Negotiating leases

Pending

Pending

In progress

Pending

Pending

**How to approach surrounding
Towns?**

Final report delivered

**Finalizing UMAS questions on
School projects**

Final report due May 11.

**Regional survey - services being
considered**

IT work in progress

FOTH Capital Campaign

**Awaiting Great Hall Grant Results
(June)**

BAY PATH Logo Contest

Use Renderings Complete

Pending