

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JULY 11, 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

- **June 27, 2017**

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

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1064 for \$59,842.13**
- **General Warrant #1065 for \$4,066.33**
- **Payroll Warrant #28 for \$139,944.41**

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve these FY17 warrants. So voted.

- **Water Debt Warrant #1000 for \$254,750.36**
- **School/General Warrant #1001 for \$648,101.49**
- **Payroll Warrant #1 for \$95,117.57**

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve these FY18 warrants. So voted.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Transfer requests

The Selectmen reviewed five requests for FY17 transfers: (Attachment #1)

- \$306.39 from the General Insurance Account to the Street Lighting Account
- \$93.00 from the Police Shift Differential Account to the Police Overtime Account
- \$185.05 from the Police ACO Assistant Account to the Police Overtime Account
- \$600.00 from the BOH Clerk Salary Account to the BOH Healthcare Account
- \$961.82 from the BOH Title V Account to the BOH Food Inspector Account

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the transfers. So voted.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Right to Farm Bylaw changes

This item will be deferred until the next meeting

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Award annual road materials bids

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit reviewed his recommendations for FY18 bid awards for road materials, diesel fuel, excavator services and bituminous concrete. (Attachment #2) He noted that there were no bids for gasoline, but he did solicit quotes and will have a recommendation for that next week. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Hevy

seconded, a motion to award the bids as recommended. So voted, with Mr. Kiley abstaining.

B. New Holden Hospital Fund distribution

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from UMass Memorial informing the town of this year's distribution from the Holden Hospital Fund. (Attachment #3) The amount received this year is \$10,499.00. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the money. So voted. It was agreed to discuss what to do with the money at a future meeting.

C. June Police report

Police Chief Mark Smith was present to deliver his monthly reports for May and June. (Attachment #4) The Chief reported 27 incidents for May and 26 for June. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

D. June Fire report

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to deliver his report for fiscal year 2017. (Attachment #5) There were 16 structure fires, 26 car accidents, and 175 burning permits given during the year. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Chief Gannon read a letter summarizing the events of the year and thanking various members of the department and town government for their assistance. (Attachment #6)

Finally, Chief Gannon questioned why he received a 33% pay cut for FY18, and gave the Selectmen a letter resigning as Chief as of September 1st. (Attachment #7)

E. June Highway report

Superintendent Jason Benoit reviewed his report for the month of June (Attachment #8) Mr. Benoit reported ongoing maintenance, equipment repairs, road sweeping and patching, mowing and many other activities. Mr. Benoit stated that he believes that the new catch basin cleaning truck is really making a difference, and that many of the drains in town are flowing much better. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Mr. Hevy stated that he has gotten some complaints about the intersection of Hillsville and Mad Brook Roads. Mr. Benoit said that he would look at it and make sure the brush is cut back.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Dog licenses are now overdue, and there is a \$5 late fee

Mr. Hevy announced this.

B. Representative Berthiaume office hours

Mr. Kiley noted that Representative Donnie Berthiaume will be in North Brookfield on July 18th from noon to 1 PM at the Senior Center.

C. Senator Gobi office hours

Mr. Petraitis announced that Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Senator Anne Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on July 25th from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

D. Friends of the Playground golf tournament

Mr. Hevy announced that the Friends of the Playground will be holding a golf tournament on August 5th at 7 AM at Quail Hollow Country Club in Oakham. The cost is \$60 per person, and there will be raffles and prizes.

VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

The Board added the Right to Farm bylaw, the Fire Chief resignation, and the Holden Hospital Funds for the next agenda.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hevy announced that the public would have the opportunity to briefly comment through the Chairman, with a two-minute limit.

Sue Lyons asked when the agenda for this meeting was posted, and was told that it was posted with the Town Clerk and also online last Thursday. She asked if the public would be able to attend this evening's Executive Sessions, and was told that the public is not allowed. She asked if the Executive Sessions had anything to do with the solar projects proposed for town property, and was told that they did not.

John Tripp asked if the Selectmen have addressed the encroachment on railroad property that he brought up last time, and was told that the railroad has not met yet. He asked if there is anything new on the Bates Observatory project, and was told that there is not. Mr. Tripp said that he would be willing to volunteer if necessary; Mr. Kiley stated that he will call Mr. Tripp when a meeting is finalized.

Jeff Smith of Walnut Street asked what parcels are still being considered for the solar projects, and Mr. Hevy stated that the police station, the school, and 48 Brickyard Road. Mr. Kiley noted that the Selectmen are waiting for representatives for Melink to get back to the Board, the projects need to be economically feasible for the developer in order to proceed.

Roger Davis asked if the Planning Board needs to have input on the solar projects before the Selectmen can move forward, and was told that the Planning Board has already voted on parts of the projects, but will still have input before the projects can go forward.

Peter Nagle asked about the many foreclosed and abandoned properties in Town; there are three or four near his home that he has tried calling the Board of Health about. Mr. Kiley asked if Mr. Nagle has contacted Building Inspector John Couture about the problems, since Mr. Couture has the ability to condemn the properties and get the

Board of Health involved. Mr. Nagle said that he has not. Mr. Kiley said that he would contact Mr. Couture himself about the properties.

Dennis Kelly asked if Melink was considering a solar canopy over the school parking lot in addition to the school property or instead of the school property. Mr. Kiley informed him that it is in addition to the school property.

Sue Lyons asked about using the landfill for solar. Mr. Kiley stated that the landfill was the Board's first choice, but because of issues with DEP it cannot be used at this time.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:00 PM Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position, and also to discuss strategy related to litigation. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Kiley, yes; Petraitis, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 7:50 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. 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**

STATUS

**Planning Final Remediation
Quaboag Compiling info on
Property Use
Negotiating leases
Pending
Pending
In progress
Pending
Pending**

Ask about COG (Insurance etc.)

**Financial Forecasting
Capital Planning**

CMRPC/Regional Shared Services

**IT Grant
Town House restoration project**

Bates Observatory

**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**