

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 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**

- **October 31, 2017**

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

- **November 7, 2017**

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

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

- **School Warrant #1020 for \$192,836.20**
- **General Warrant #1021 for \$370,703.84**
- **Payroll Warrant #10 for \$328,948.86**

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

### **III. FINANCIAL ITEMS**

#### **A. Free Cash detail**

The Board reviewed a memo from the Town Accountant detailing the breakdown of this year's Free Cash. (Attachment #1) Approximately half of the \$478,285.00 in Free Cash was unexpended FY17 budgets, and the other half was unexpected revenue.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Request for bass tournament**

Mr. Hevy noted that he still has not been able to speak with the East Brookfield Selectmen. He wants to speak with them first before he contacts the person who is hosting the tournament.

#### **B. Streetlight complaints**

Mr. Hevy asked if Mr. Kiley or Mr. Petraitis had any recommendations for streetlights to be turned back on. Mr. Kiley said that he thinks there should be one at the top of Walnut Street, one on Elm Street at the split, and one at the corner of Spring and North Main Streets. Mr. Petraitis said that he has not looked, but he wants to make sure all of the crosswalks are lit. Mr. Hevy stated that he would like to turn on a lot of the lights starting from the center of town and working outward. Mr. Kiley asked what is the policy for streetlights?

Resident John Tripp suggested that all lights within a  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 mile radius of the center of town be activated.

Mr. Hevy said that there are 20 to 24 lights on North Main Street from Spring Street to Hillside Avenue.

Resident Ruth Fogarty suggested that there be streetlights turned on in all areas where there are sidewalks.

Resident Renee Santos said that she would like to see lights wherever there is “active citizen use”, such as Bennett’s Hill or the new park. There are no sidewalks there.

Mr. Hevy said that he would like to see how many lights are included in the 1 mile radius and discuss it again at the next meeting.

Resident Jim Grace asked if the Safety Committee should be involved in this. Mr. Kiley suggested that the Selectmen turn on the lights within the 1 mile radius, and the Safety Committee can make recommendations beyond that.

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to review the lights within the 1 mile radius of the center of town, and to consult with the Safety Committee for areas beyond that. So voted.

### **C. Discussion re: solar contract**

Mr. Kiley noted that he has spoken with representatives from Melink, and they drafted a letter stating their position. They believe that they are still within the parameters of the contract. Mr. Kiley said that while he disagrees with almost every premise of the Citizens for Sensible Solar, he is in agreement that there may be other locations for the solar installations. He stated that a parking canopy at the former Aztec property and a canopy over the school parking lot is a good idea.

Mr. Kiley said that when he spoke to Melink they said that they are planning to purchase 21 acres at 51 and 53 North Street that abut the 48 Brickyard Road parcel. They are willing to donate this land to the Town to replace the trees that will be cut at 48 Brickyard. The land will be deeded as conservation land. Mr. Kiley noted that a little over half of North Brookfield is protected acreage.

Mr. Kiley said that he believes the Town needs a “vision” for future development. He would like to see the Town House returned to use, perhaps as an arts school as has been suggested in the past.

Sue Lyons said that the landfill is not the most picturesque area in Town. Mike Kularski asked if Melink would pay for the landfill to be DEP compliant? Mr. Hevy noted that even if and when the landfill cap is DEP compliant, DEP still needs to say that they will allow solar panels. Mr. Petraitis said that the Selectmen have talked about solar at the transfer station numerous times. This falls under the Board of Health, not the Selectmen. If anyone is interested in asking questions they should contact the Board of Health. The Selectmen agreed that they would invite the Board of Health to attend the next meeting to discuss this issue.

Resident John Tripp said that he thinks the entire issue should be tabled because of the town meeting vote to rescind. He wants it tabled until the landfill becomes compliant.

Laura Zajac thanked the Selectmen for exploring other options. She believes the Town should be looking into other environmentally friendly options.

Mr. Kiley said that he would like another week or so to explore options for the solar projects.

Mr. Petraitis said that he does not think the Board should keep going with Melink. He thinks the issue should be tabled until something better comes along.

Mr. Hevy said that there is an active contract in place. The purpose of this was to create revenue for the town. Mr. Kiley noted that Brickyard Road is not making any revenue for the town, and neither does the school. Mr. Hevy said that the Board should continue to research options as we move forward with the contract.

Resident Cindy Varney said that Melink buying property to swap sounds like a bribe. Mr. Kiley noted that no one asked them to do this, they are doing it on their own. Melink approached these landowners some time ago.

Michelle Petraitis noted that the Town would probably be in breach of contract if the Selectmen tried to back out. Mr. Hevy said that is a possibility, that is why he wants to continue to do research as we move forward. Mr. Kiley noted that tabling the contract could cost the Town more money in the end.

Dennis Kelley said that he believes the only way to settle the issue is to hold a special election. Mr. Petraitis said that the issue is not a special election, if Melink is correct and the contract is still valid there is nothing to be done.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. LPAC appointment**

Corey McIntosh, LPAC station manager, was present to ask the Board to appoint Alec Norrie as a videographer. Mr. Norrie said that he began by filming basketball games and is looking forward to serving. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Norrie. So voted.

### **B. Request to hire new Highway employee**

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit asking that Scott Sliwoski be hired to fill the mechanic position. (Attachment #2) Mr. Benoit stated that Mr. Sliwoski has a lot of knowledge and experience. Mr. Sliwoski noted that he is from Brookfield, and has his own welding and machine shop. Mr. Kiley asked if Mr. Sliwoski has the licenses necessary to drive the trucks, and Mr. Sliwoski said that he does not, but he is in the process of obtaining them. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Sliwoski. So voted.

#### **D. Resignation from Police Department**

Police Chief Mark Smith read a letter of resignation from Officer Garrett Danna. (Attachment #3) Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the resignation with regret. So voted.

#### **D. Sign Cultural Council contract**

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the Mass Cultural Council that accompanied the contract for the North Brookfield Cultural Council's annual allotment of \$4,500.00. (Attachment #4) Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

#### **E. Police Department monthly report**

Police Chief Smith delivered his reports for the months of September and October. (Attachment #5) The Chief reported 21 incidents in September and 36 in October. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the reports. So voted.

#### **F. Fire Department monthly report**

This item will be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **G. Highway Department monthly report**

Highway Superintendent Benoit reviewed his report for the month of October. (Attachment #6) He reported that his staff performed routine tasks and also spent a considerable amount of time preparing Smith Hanson Road, Tucker Road, and Tucker Cross Road for resurfacing. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

### **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A. Tyler Wolanin office hours**

Mr. Kiley noted that Tyler Wolanin, district aide to Senator Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

#### **B. Sportsmen's Club Turkey Raffle**

Mr. Hevy announced that the Sportsmen's Club will be hosting their annual Turkey Raffle on Saturday at 7:30 PM.

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

Mr. Petraitis asked that a meeting with the Board of Health regarding the landfill be added.

### **VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Greg Herring, a solar consultant who worked with Brookfield Orchards, was present to tell the Board that the new SMART program gives extra financial incentives for solar

installations built on landfills or brownfields. Mr. Kiley asked if Mr. Herring knew how long the SMART program would be around, and Mr. Herring replied that the program itself is estimated to last for three years, but the “adders” will be limited to the first projects to apply. He also stated that the state is working toward allowing farming between the panels.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

There being no further business, at 7:50 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**

##### **PROJECT**

**NBDDP/Aztec**

**Solar contracts on Municipal Property**

**Purchase Orders**

**Personnel policies**

**Electric aggregation**

**Community Compact projects**

**Financial Forecasting**

**Capital Planning**

**CMRPC/Regional Shared Services**

**IT Grant**

**Town House restoration project**

**Bates Observatory**

##### **STATUS**

**In progress**

**Pending**

**Pending**

**In progress**

**Pending**

**Final report delivered**

**Final report delivered**

**Final report delivered**

**Final report delivered**

**FOTH Capital Campaign**

**Pending**