

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOVEMBER 28, 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

- **November 14, 2017**

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

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1022 for \$125,185.42**
- **Stabilization Transfer Warrant #1023 for \$200,000.00**
- **General Warrant #1024 for \$260,816.03**
- **Payroll Warrant #11 for \$323,449.35**

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

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. FY18 tax rate

Mr. Petraitis reviewed a letter from the Department of Revenue announcing that the Town's FY18 tax rate has been certified at \$16.67. The rate for FY17 was \$16.53.

B. FY19 Budget Timeline, Policy, and Guidelines

Mr. Hevy noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening to discuss these documents, and have asked that the selectmen attend.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Request for bass tournament

Mr. Hevy still needs to discuss this with the East Brookfield Selectmen.

B. Streetlight issues

Mr. Hevy presented a map and revised spreadsheet showing all of the streetlights to be turned on within 1 mile of the center of town. Mr. Kiley noted that the lights on Bradshaw Street over the path to the high school are overgrown with trees. He said that no light is getting to the path, and it would be a waste of money unless the trees are cut back. He also said that he would request that National Grid replace the lights with LEDs as they are turned on. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve Mr. Hevy's list, pending review of Bradshaw Street, and to ask National Grid to replace with LED lights as the lights are turned on. So voted.

C. BOH re: Landfill DEP compliance

Trevor Bruso of the Board of Health was present to address the issue of DEP compliance with the cap on the old landfill. Mr. Bruso reported that there are three outstanding issues to be addressed with DEP. The first issue is that the swale on top of

the northern cap has heaved. Mr. Bruso is currently working with engineer Jeff Howland and DEP on how this can be fixed.

The second issue is that the swale behind the compactors needs a pipe; the preliminary plan for this is with DEP awaiting approval.

The final issue is that the wetland in back of the landfill had beavers a few years ago. The beavers have been removed, but water is not flowing properly out of the swale, it is backing up onto the cap. Mr. Bruso plans to apply to the Conservation Commission to do the work necessary to get the water flowing again.

Mr. Bruso reported that the Board of Health has \$11,500.00 in their budget this year allocated to addressing these issues. If all of the work can't be accomplished this year they may need more money in next year's budget.

Mr. Hevy noted that after all of this work is done DEP will need to recertify the landfill cap.

Resident Susan Lyons asked what the timeline is to do these repairs? Mr. Bruso stated that he hopes to have everything done by the end of this fiscal year, but everything depends on DEP.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. LPAC appointment

LPAC Station Manager Corey McIntosh introduced Luke Anderson to be appointed as a videographer. Mr. Anderson is the younger brother of LPAC chairman Jake Anderson. He said that he saw his brother doing this, and he wants to learn as well. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Anderson. So voted.

B. BOH and Highway re: recycling center plowing

John Alphin of the Board of Health was present to complain that the Selectmen and Finance Committee cut money from his budget for snow plowing at the recycling center. The Highway Department was supposed to do the plowing, but the Highway Superintendent says that he did not know about it. Mr. Alphin noted that we could have snow any day now. The transfer station has never closed on a Saturday because of the weather. It is closed on Wednesdays if there is no school, but not on Saturdays.

Mr. Alphin said that he wants assurances that the Highway Department will be plowing the transfer station. The Highway Superintendent seems to think it will be difficult because he will have to pay time and one half on a Saturday. Mr. Hevy said the Selectmen will set up a meeting with the two departments.

Mr. Alphin noted that the Board of Health is going out to bid this year on the solid waste contracts, there may be higher fees from Casella which would necessitate an increase in the bag fees.

Mr. Alphin also complained that his workers were never brought up to parity with other towns when the job descriptions were revised.

Mr. Alphin noted that North Brookfield is again receiving an award for producing less than 1,000 pounds of waste per household, which very few towns get.

Mr. Petraitis asked how much from the “take it or leave it” shed is thrown into the compactors at the end of the season. Mr. Alphin acknowledged that people sometimes put unusable things there, but the recycling center employees will make people pay a disposal fee if they notice. This causes a lot of complaints from residents.

Mr. Petraitis asked why North Brookfield does not have single-stream recycling? Mr. Alphin said that by separating the recyclable materials in house, North Brookfield is able to bale and sell the materials at a much higher rate.

C. Resignation from Cultural Council

Mr. Hevy read a letter from Thomas Whitestone resigning from the Cultural Council. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the resignation and to send a letter of thanks. So voted.

D. Fire Department monthly report

Fire Chief Joe Holway reviewed his departmental report for the month of October. The Chief reported there were two fires in North Brookfield, and two vehicle extrications as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

The Chief noted that the department now has four generators and four cellar pumps that will be available to residents in the event of a power outage.

The department is now up to 37 members; the Chief is hoping to get the membership up to 40.

The Town of Holden donated 2,000' of 4" hose, and the Town of Wales might be donating pagers.

Chief Holway stated that the station roof is leaking under the old siren. He is looking into getting a crane to remove it from the roof so the roof can be repaired.

Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

E. Stantec contract

Mr. Kiley reviewed an e-mail from Chris Dunphy of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission asking the Selectmen to sign a contract with Stantec for consulting services on the North Common Street infrastructure project. Mr. Kiley moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve and sign the contract. So voted.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tyler Wolanin office hours

Mr. Hevy noted that Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Senator Gobi, will be in North Brookfield on Tuesday, December 19th from 11 AM to noon at the Senior Center.

VII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

See attached list

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr. Kiley offered the Board's thanks to the Decorate Our Town committee for their work this weekend, he said the downtown area looks great.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

There being no further business, at 7:15 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