

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 29, 2018

Chairman Kiley called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mr. Tripp also present. Mr. Petraitis was not present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **May 15, 2018**
- **May 22, 2018**

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

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **Refund Warrant #1054 for \$21,132.44**
- **School Warrant #1055 for \$113,355.33**
- **General Warrant #1055 for \$323,209.74**
- **Payroll Warrant #24 for \$307,707.57**

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

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Reserve Fund transfer request

Mr. Kiley reviewed a request from the School Department for \$310.78 from the Reserve Fund to pay for Medicaid processing. (Attachment #1) Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the request and send it along to the Finance Committee for final approval. So voted.

Mr. Kiley also noted that a spreadsheet showing the FY19 proposed budget will be posted on the town website this week. He noted that the Selectmen and Finance Committee have slightly different numbers, which will be reflected in the spreadsheet.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Introduction of new police officers

Police Chief Mark Smith introduced four new part-time officers that were appointed last week. The officers are Jacob Deschamps, Jonathan LaPorte, Ashley Jodoin, and Kyle Cassavant. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to reappoint all four officers. So voted.

B. Smith Hanson Road pole petition @ 6:15

At 6:15 PM Mr. Kiley opened the hearing on the petition of National Grid to install one new pole on Smith Hanson Road. Kim Tavalliamola was present from National Grid to explain that the new pole will be supporting a pole in West Brookfield that used to be anchored to trees, but the West Brookfield Tree Warden was concerned. Since there were no abutters present, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the petition. So voted.

C. Senior Center policy

The Selectmen reviewed a new Senior Center use policy. (Attachment #2) This will be on the next agenda to discuss the use of alcohol on the premises. Perhaps the policy should be amended to state that if alcohol is to be sold or served on the premises then a one-day license is required.

D. Sick Leave buyback policy

The Selectmen discussed amending the current sick leave buyback policy. (Attachment #3) The selectmen discussed the need to cap the maximum days, and decided to investigate what the school department does. This will be under old business next time.

E. Request for 61A waiver

The Board reviewed two requests for 61A waivers, one for 116 Ward Street and another for 31 Ryan Road and 24 Lane Avenue. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The Selectmen have received letters from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission noting that they have no interest in purchasing any of the parcels. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to waive the Town's right of first refusal on the parcels. So voted.

F. CMRPC survey

The Board reviewed a survey that was developed by CMRPC asking if the Town has any interest in regionalizing services in several areas. (Available in the Selectmen's office) After review the Board decided that they would be open to discussion on most of the topics. Leslie will complete the survey online and return it to Connor Robichaud at CMRPC.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chris Dunphy re: North Common project

Mr. Dunphy's car broke down and he was unable to attend. He will attend the meeting on June 12th.

B. Appointment to NBEMA

Mr. Kiley introduced Cheryl Vosberg of Winter Street as a candidate to be appointed to NBEMA. Ms. Vosberg noted that she previously served on the Palmer CERT team. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to appoint Ms. Vosberg. So voted.

C. Resignation from Highway Department

Mr. Tripp read a letter from Ron Barrows resigning from the Highway Department. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to accept the resignation. So voted.

D. Request for Town House tour

Mr. Kiley reviewed a letter from Marilyn Borst of the Friends of the Town House asking for permission to take a group of 3rd graders on a tour of the Town House on June 5th. (Attachment #4) Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

E. Future use of railroad ROW

Mr. Kiley noted that he has wanted to pursue the creation of a hiking trail on the North Brookfield Railroad rail bed, but the climate was against it. But recently the railroad commissioners have agreed to pursue the walking trail. In the past there was discussion on turning the property over to the "Rails to Trails Conservancy."

Resident Sue Lyons said that in her opinion it would be an asset for North Brookfield.

State Representative Donnie Berthiaume noted that there are state grants available for this type of project.

Resident Brandon Avery noted that in 1875 the Town purchased 90% of the railroad stock, and the loan was repaid within 10 years.

Mr. Kiley noted that the next step would be the railroad sending letters to all of the abutters notifying them of the intent to convert the right of way into a rail trail, and that any encroachments must be removed.

Mr. Kiley asked that anyone interested contact the Selectmen. Mr. Avery noted that he is interested, and Marilyn Baron-Nagle said that she might be as well.

F. Littering by-law

Mr. Kiley noted that Mr. Petraitis was the one who wanted to discuss this topic, so it will appear under old business at the June 12th meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Kiley announced that the public has the opportunity to briefly comment through the chair.

Resident Sue Lyons asked about progress fixing the landfill cap. Mr. Kiley noted that Mr. Bruso from the Board of Health had told the Finance Committee that things were looking good.

Ms. Lyons asked about problems at the Town Beach. Mr. Kiley stated that people should plan to attend the June 22nd town meeting to vote on additional funding for the beach to address the problems of out of town visitors. Mr. Kiley also noted that the drainage problem should be fixed by the highway department with a donation of materials and sand.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Dog License reminder

Mr. Tripp reminded residents that dog licenses are now due, and there will be a \$5 late fee after June 1st.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

See attached list

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, at 7:20 PM Mr. Tripp 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

Aztec/Mass Dev grant
Solar contracts on Municipal Property
Personnel policies
Electric aggregation
Town House restoration project
Bates Observatory
Cable license renewal
Disabilities Commission

STATUS

Pending
Pending
In progress
Pending
FOTH Capital Campaign
Pending
Pending
Pending