

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 19, 2015

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 6 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **May 5, 2015**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

- **May 7, 2015**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

- **May 11, 2015**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as written. So voted.

II. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

- **School Warrant #1056 for \$125,128.93**
- **General Warrant #1057 for \$84,303.69**
- **General Warrant #1058 for \$16,370.78**
- **Payroll Warrant #23 for \$300,598.26**

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the aforementioned warrants. So voted.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **The public has the opportunity to briefly comment on agenda items through the Chairman**

Mr. Hevy introduced Tyler Wolanin, District Director for Senator Anne Gobi. Mr. Wolanin has monthly office hours in North Brookfield, and is always available to assist town officials and residents.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. FY16 budgets

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the FY2016 budget. He reported that the current projected deficit stands at \$425,000.00. Mrs. Walter pointed out that the Town has exhausted our levy limits. This year's budget increase allowed under Proposition 2½ is only \$125,000.00; the Town's Group Insurance increased by more than that. Mr. Smith noted that School Choice out could cost the Town as much as \$770,000.00 next year. He recommended that the Selectmen sit down soon to discuss what cuts can be made from the budget. The Selectmen and Finance Committees need to start discussing the FY2017 budget this summer.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Draft appointment policy

Mr. Hevy presented a draft policy for appointing people to committees or boards. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter stated that there should also be a coordinating policy that would apply to hiring town employees. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve this Committee Appointment Policy. So voted.

B. Draft cable assessment

The Selectmen reviewed a draft Cable Assessment that was prepared by Charles Marshall and the Cable Advisory Committee. (Attachment #2) This assessment must be sent to Mr. Cohan of Charter Communications as the first step in the cable license renewal process. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the draft assessment. So voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for appointment to Finance Committee

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from Robert Miner, Jr. volunteering for the Finance Committee. (Attachment #3) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Miner. So voted.

B. Request for appointment to Cable Advisory Committee

Mr. Hevy read a letter from Jennifer Southard, rescinding her request to be appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee, and resigning as an LPAC videographer. (Attachment #4) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the resignation. So voted.

C. Request for appointment to Local Cultural Council

Mr. Hevy reviewed an e-mail from Harbour Fraser Hodder, asking that Eva Brown be appointed to the Local Cultural Council. (Attachment #5) Mrs. Brown will be returning to the committee after taking the required one year off. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to appoint Mrs. Brown. So voted.

D. Resignation from Conservation Commission

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Trevor Bruso, resigning from the Conservation Commission effective June 30th. (Attachment #6) Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Bruso for his excellent service. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the resignation "with regret." So voted.

E. Request for one-day beer and wine permit

Thomas Waugh, the owner of the former "Chooch's" property, was present to ask for a one-day permit to sell beer and wine on June 20th. (Attachment #7) Mr. Waugh explained that this is for the Colorfest event, which is a fundraiser for the Wendemuth Meadow property. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the special license. So voted.

F. Eagle Scout presentation

Mr. Hevy introduced Jacob Picciuto, who was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob built a "buddy bench" at the elementary school to help children make new friends. The Selectmen presented Jacob with an award recognizing his hard work and dedication. Mr. Hevy expressed the thanks of the Board to the scoutmasters and others who assist these young men.

G. Accept donations for school

Mr. Hevy reviewed a letter from School Superintendent Marilyn Tencza asking the Selectmen to accept three gifts and donations to the school. (Attachment #8) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to accept the gifts. So voted.

H. Issues to discuss with Senator Gobi and Rep Berthiaume

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to discuss the Chapter 70 formula and School Choice issues at a meeting with Senator Gobi and Representative Berthiaume. Mrs. Walter agreed, and asked about discussing the Fire Department grant with them as well. Mr. Hevy stated that sometime in July was suggested as a good time to meet by Senator Gobi.

I. Request for change in vacation policy for Police Department

Mr. Hevy reviewed an e-mail from Police Chief Thomasian asking that some of his men be allowed to carry over vacation time into July because of injuries and short-staffing. (Attachment #9) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

J. Fire Department report

Fire Chief Brad Gannon was present to report on the activities of his department from January through April of this year. According to Chief Gannon, there were 7 structure fires, 10 car accidents, and 2 water rescue calls. There were 171 burning permits issued, none of which got out of control.

Chief Gannon reported that just so far in May the department responded to a call for an overturned boat, they provided backup to the Barre department for a structure fire, and just yesterday North Brookfield assisted Spencer with two structure fires.

Also yesterday, the department responded to a call for an unexploded Civil War era ordinance that a resident found using his metal detector. The State Police bomb squad was called, and the mortar was transported to the Kittredge Road sand pit by the Highway Department in a dump truck load of sand and detonated.

Chief Gannon reported that the department assisted the Town of West Brookfield when one of the pillars on their town hall fell across the road. He reported that 15 communities have used the training center, and more are making inquiries every day.

Finally, the Chief reported that the annual Pay Night Supper will be held on June 20th at 6 PM.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Town wide Yard Sale May 23rd

Mrs. Walter announced that the annual Town-wide Yard Sale, sponsored by the PTO, will be held on Saturday, May 23rd.

B. Hydrant flushing

Mr. Hevy read an announcement from the Water Department that they will continue to conduct hydrant flushing through May 22nd.

C. Color Fest 2015

Brandon Avery thanked Tom Waugh for his assistance with the June 20th Colorfest event, which is a fundraiser for Wendemuth Meadow. He expects that there will be various bands and artists at the event, which runs from 10 AM to 6 PM.

D. Memorial Day schedule

Mr. Smith reviewed the schedule for Monday's Memorial Day celebration, which will begin at 8 AM with a military color guard and firing squad at the cemeteries, followed by a parade at 9:15, and concluding at 11:00 AM with a ceremony and speeches by various guests.

VIII. PENDING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **See attached list**

It was agreed to add project updates and discussion on the FY16 budgets to the next meeting agenda.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to enter Executive Session to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel, to discuss strategy related to negotiations with non-union personnel, to consider 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 collective bargaining. Roll call: Hevy, yes; Walter, yes; Smith, yes. So voted. Mr. Hevy announced that the Board would exit Executive Session only to adjourn.

At 8:55 PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

PENDING/FUTURE SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

**Wendemuth Meadow
School sign property
Solterra Agreement
NBDDP/Aztec
Gilbert Street Stormwater issues
Cable license renewal Oct 2015
Purchase Orders
Vacancies on town boards
Creation of Financial Advisory Committee
Personnel policies
Cemetery Road
Smith Hanson Road forestry plan
Meeting with Senator Gobi and Rep Berthiaume**