

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 20, 2014

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6 PM in the Senior Center with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Hevy also present. Mr. Smith reminded those in attendance that the meeting would be both audio and video taped.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2014

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2014 as written. So voted.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2014

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 6, 2014 as written. So voted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2014

Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2014 as written. So voted.

- IA. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL WARRANT #1059 FOR \$43,916.94**
- APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1060 FOR \$56,559.16**
- APPROVAL OF GENERAL WARRANT #1061 FOR \$14,070.28**
- APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANT #24 FOR \$302,069.00**

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. HIGHWAY TRUCK REPAIRS

Mr. Smith noted that he spoke with Highway Superintendent Gary Jean about the truck problems that Mr. Jean had brought up last week. According to Mr. Smith, Mr. Jean has resolved the problems; one of the vehicles will be repaired in June, and the other vehicle will be replaced with Chapter 90 funds.

B. SIGN MOU FOR IT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mrs. Walter explained that North Brookfield has been selected to participate in a program through the Department of Revenue to provide remote computer backup services for small towns. (Attachment #1) This is something that is needed, since many of the town's computers have important financial data that is not currently being backed

up properly. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to sign the agreement with the DOR to provide remote data backup services. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. APRIL POLICE REPORT

Mr. Hevy reviewed the police report for the month of April as submitted by Chief Aram Thomasian, Jr. (Attachment #2) The Chief reported 15 incidents and 22 arrest/summons for the month. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

B. CEMETERY DEPARTMENT FOREMAN PROPOSAL

Cemetery Commission Chairman Kirk Burnham was present to speak with the Board about a memo that he sent requesting a raise for the Cemetery Foreman. (Attachment #3) According to Mr. Burnham, the foreman has taken on more duties since the passing of former Commissioner John Lane. Mr. Burnham checked some area towns and believes that the current pay for the foreman is low. The foreman is currently being paid \$12 per hour, and the Cemetery Commissioners would like to raise this to \$16 per hour. Mr. Burnham stated that the additional funds can come from their revolving fund. Mr. Burnham stated that the current foreman has done a great job of picking up Mr. Lane's duties.

Mr. Hevy said that this is happening more and more each year, North Brookfield's salaries are lower than area towns. This is something the Board needs to address.

Mrs. Walter said that in her opinion this is a new position, since it encompasses much of what Mr. Lane used to do. She asked Mr. Burnham to break down the difference in pay for the past year to document the additional hours that have been worked in Mr. Lane's absence.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Burnham for coming in, and said that the Selectmen will talk about this again after they receive the salary numbers from Mr. Burnham.

C. REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR MURPHY ROAD BRIDGE

Mrs. Walter presented three proposals for engineering on the Murphy Road Bridge project. (Available in the Selectmen's office) The proposals were received from Fuss and O'Neill, A E Com and Bayside Engineering. She noted that she has asked Highway Superintendent Gary Jean to review the proposals and give his feedback to the Board. It is hoped that by the end of June the surveying will be finished, and the Notice of Intent will be filed with the Conservation Commission. The project is expected to run through the summer into November. The Selectmen will discuss these proposals again after Mr. Jean gives his input.

Mrs. Walter asked that a Special Town Meeting be scheduled for June 20th before the adjourned Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to set Friday, June 20th at 7 PM as the date and time for a Special Town Meeting. So voted.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. BELL TOWER INSTALLATION

Mr. Smith reported that the Town House Bell Tower was reinstalled on Sunday and everything went well. On behalf of the Board he thanked Jeff Samuelson for his faithful reproduction of the bell tower and the spire. He also thanked Police Chief Thomasian and his officers, and Fire Chief Brad Gannon and the members of the North Brookfield Fire Department for their assistance. Also, Highway Superintendent Gary Jean and EMS Director Pat Kiritsy were there, along with Doug Blood and members of the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Smith also noted the cooperation of downtown businesses and churches; they were all very supportive in spite of the inconvenience to their customers and parishioners.

B. MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Mr. Smith reviewed the schedule of events for Memorial Day. (Attachment #4)

Mr. Smith also noted that last Friday Quabaug Corporation celebrated the 50th anniversary of their link with the Vibram Corporation. He noted that he was very impressed by the entire program, and his tour of the facility. He offered the Board's congratulations again on this important occasion.

C. QUABOAG CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Mrs. Walter announced that the Quaboag Choral Society will be holding a concert to commemorate the Town House Bell Tower reinstallation on Saturday, May 24th at 7 PM at the Congregational Church. The concert will cover "the music that made America," and will feature a tribute to George M. Cohan. The concert is made possible through a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

D. CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS MEMO

Mr. Hevy reviewed a memo from Tom Cohan of Charter Communications regarding the transfer of Charter customers in North Brookfield to Comcast Corporation. (Attachment #5) It is unclear what this will mean to North Brookfield's residents. Mrs. Walter pointed out that there are still areas of town that do not have cable service, and this is something that needs to be pursued.

E. TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

Mrs. Walter announced that the annual town-wide yard sale, sponsored by the PTO, will be held on Saturday, May 24th. Maps will be sold that day in front of the Town House beginning at 7 AM.

F. VFW POPPY DRIVE

Mr. Smith announced that the VFW will once again be selling poppies the week before Memorial Day at Cumberland Farms, North Brookfield Savings Bank, the Post Office and the Recycling Center. All proceeds benefit the local Veterans' Relief Fund.

G. HYDRANT FLUSHING

Mr. Hevy announced that the Water Department will continue flushing hydrants through May 23rd. Residents are advised to refrain from doing laundry while there is discoloration of the water.

H. DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE

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

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. BUDGET MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- B. CEMETERY FOREMAN PROPOSAL**
- C. WATER DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PROPOSAL**
- D. ACCOUNTANT RETIREMENT**
- E. MURPHY ROAD ENGINEERING SELECTION**

There being no further business, at 7 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant