

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00PM in the Police Department. John Tripp and Brooke Canada present.

Approval of Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: School # 1062 for \$7,000.00, General # 1061 for \$467,821.6, Payroll # 24 for \$340,348.37, and School # 1060 for \$59,843.28. So voted.

Financial Items:

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve the following transfer requests:

-\$1,000.00 from Water Dept System Improvement to Water Dept Vehicle Expense due to higher gas prices

-\$10,000.00 from Water Dept System Improvement to Water Dept Electricity Expense due to increase in electricity costs

-\$105.00 from Conservation Training Expense to Conservation Other Expense to cover supply purchase shortage

-\$250.00 from Town Beach Purchase to Service to Town Beach Electricity due to increase in electric costs.

So voted.

Old Business:

ARPA Funds Recommendation Town Administrator: Mr. Tripp explained that ARPA Committee recommended using \$400,000.00 in APRA funds to hire a Town Administrator. The Board met last week and voted to spend \$200,000.00 in ARPA funds to cover a Town Administrator for one to two years. Mr. Tripp said his thoughts are to look for someone part time, not a manager. Mrs. Canada said the Board also decided to create a Town Administrator search committee. Mr. Tripp said ARPA funds are non-recurring, there won't be money to keep this person unless they get grants to pay for themselves. Mr. Tripp said they'd wait until Mrs. Canada said that we met with the Town Admin from Brookfield, there were many people there and the response was positive. She also said that the ARPA Committee verified the funds can be used for this.

Accept Open Space Guidelines: Mrs. Canada read the amended Open Space Guidelines. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the guidelines. So voted. Mrs. Canada thanked Brandon Avery for writing the guidelines.

New Business:

Appointment to Cultural Council-Nancy Waldron requested to be on Cultural Council, she said she moved to town two years ago, her children are artists, she's interested in bettering to the town and she thinks this is a nice way to bring arts to town. She works as an accountant and has an IT background. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint Nancy Waldron to Cultural Council. So voted. Mr. Tripp welcomed Nancy aboard.

Parks and Recreation Committee Appointments: The new Parks and Recreation Committee will combine the Town Common/Playground and Town Forest Park. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to appoint the following five people to the new Parks and Recreation Committee: Jamie Gilman (active on Town Forest), Brandon Avery (active on many committees/boards), Mike Hinkley (active on Town Forest), Michelle Thayer (active on Town Beach) and Tara Hayes (Town Clerk, looking to take care of administration and book keeping). So voted. Mr. Tripp noted that anyone that wants to volunteer to get a hold of Tara, you can serve as a volunteer without having to be active on the committee. Tara reminded everyone to see her to get sworn in.

Request for Resources: Erika Voellings requested to have her wedding ceremony at Doanes Pond. Mr. Tripp verified that Erika checked with the Water Department they are ok with it. Erika explained it would just be the ceremony, the reception is elsewhere, and they will be there less than 40 minutes. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to give permission to use Doane's Pond on July 1. So voted.

One Day Liquor License: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the Fire Department's request for a one-day liquor license on June 10th from 6pm to 11pm for Pay Night. So voted.

One Day Liquor License: Stars and Stripes requested two one day liquor licenses, one on May 28th from 12-9 for an outside BBQ, and one on July 1st from 12-9 for customer appreciation day. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve both requests. So voted.

Chapter 90 Final Report: Highway submitted final reports for Brooks Pond Road, Brickyard Road, Slab City and Town Farm Roads. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the final reports. So voted.

Contract for Gas Prices: Ashley explained that Power Management went out to bid for natural gas prices for municipal buildings. Sprague came back with the best options. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign contract with Sprague for natural gas. So voted.

Request for Resources: The Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield put in a request to use electricity at the common for the carnival, games and DJ were not part of the original request. Mr. Tripp asked about music, Nancy said they have DJ Brian. Mr. Tripp mentioned the carnival being moved to the basketball court. Nancy said she rushed down to the common, she's been cleaning and making sure there's no damage. She did notice some vandalism, broken glass bottles. Mr. Tripp asked that anybody going to the carnival have a good time, we used to have carnival in North Brookfield when he was growing up. Mr. Tripp confirmed the dates 5/25-5/29, and Nancy said the Coalition is happy to reimburse electricity cost. Mr. Tripp told Nancy when they're ready to give him a call, DJ Brian has been there before. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request. So voted.

Letter of Support for Town House Committee grant application: Mrs. Canada read a letter in support of the Town House Committee applying for a grant. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the letter. So voted.

Request for Resources: The Fire Department will be doing their annual Toll booth fundraiser on 5/27 at the intersection of Main Street and School Street, as well as the Hannaford parking lot. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve this request. So voted.

PVPC Town/Owner Agreement: This agreement is for 5 Prospect Street in Brookfield. Mr. Tripp explained that North Brookfield and Brookfield partnered up for the Housing Rehabilitation Program. We typically can get 12 homes a year renovated. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the agreement. So voted.

Public Comment:

Nancy Waldron had a question on the previous gas prices, Ashley didn't have that information on hand.

Mr. Tripp said we're still waiting on the electrical aggregate plan that was submitted to DPU in 2019, in the mean time homeowners can look into getting their own supplier.

Brandon Avery said the Congregational Church is celebrating their 200th anniversary Monday after the Memorial Day services. He also said the Historical Museum will be open Sunday 10am to 1pm. He opens other hours occasionally and is always available by appointment.

Joanne Carey said people from Brookfield would advise us on a Town Administrator. Mrs. Canada said we had a meeting with the Brookfield Town Admin, she described her position but we can customize the job based on our needs.

Joanne Carey brought up at the drag show and said they should go under a SORI test. Mrs. Canada said that is not required in public spaces, it is in schools and libraries. Joanne asked if Mrs. Canada had an objection to the SORI. Mrs. Canada said we'd be excluding a singular group, if you're not asking all adults to be SORI'd you're hyper focusing on one group. Joanne said the Police could do it and said she'd ask Chief Smith about it. Mr. Tripp said he'd follow up with the Chief. Joe Jablonski said he doesn't know if it has to go as far as SORI and that no one is singling out. Mrs. Canada said we are if we're requiring a SORI for the drag show performers but not the carnival workers or other adults. Joe said that no one is being targeted, but questions if the show is appropriate based on where it's being held. Mrs. Canada said we have to have standardized policies in place for everyone. Joe said this is an adult show, Mrs. Canada said it's going to be family friendly Disney-themed event.

Announcements:

Mr. Tripp read a letter from Ashley Barre about the deadline to submit items for the Board of Selectmen agendas. Mr. Tripp explained that Ashley makes up folders ahead of the meeting and that she can't continue to add items to the agenda.

Mrs. Canada read a thank you letter to Troy Allen for fixing the sink at the Senior Center.

Mr. Tripp said there would be a 4th of July Celebration on July 1. He contacted Hannaford and they are donating 400 hot dogs and buns. This is very generous and Mr. Tripp thanked Hannaford. There will be music by DJ Brian and Stan Matthews, and a Parade that will start at the Firehouse.

Mr. Tripp said on Monday, Memorial Day, there will be a ceremony at Walnut Grove then at St. Joseph's Cemetery. He said they typically meet around 8am and spend about an hour at each site. Mr. Tripp said the Memorial Day Parade will start at the Fire house, go down Grove Street and then to Main Street. There will be a celebration in front of the library, if it rains the ceremony will be abbreviated.

Mr. Tripp reviewed the Winter Plowing policy, he said people complain about their mailboxes, the grass is self-explanatory, some people in town have taken over town property with fences, the Town owns

some land on the side of the sidewalk. Highway has been informed of a house that built a stonewall on the sidewalk. People are also cutting and taking wood from town property. We need a fence viewer, there should be a policy or bylaw about this, it is for the safety of the guys maintaining the sidewalks. Mr. Tripp thinks we should make it a bigger policy or bylaw so that it is enforceable.

Mrs. Canada read an announcement about the upcoming Special Town Meeting and Adjourned Annual Town Meeting on June 16th 2023.

Mr. Tripp thanked NBHelps and the Fire Department for putting up flags down North Main Street. It took about 2.5 hours.

At 7:03PM, there being no further business, Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre