

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:02PM on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at the Police Department. John Tripp and Brooke Canada present.

Approval of Warrants: Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 5 \$281,976.17, School # 1010 \$41,349.67, General # 1012 \$42,780.35, General # 1011 \$200,882.72, WWTP Upgrade # 1004 \$1,325,272.16, WWTP Upgrade # 1012 \$566,682.39. So voted.

Financial Items:

Highway Spending Request-Mrs Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Highway Spending request for \$900.00 for over the rail mower transmission, \$600.00 for tires, \$500 (tbd) for a chainsaw, and \$250.00 each for two air brakes. So voted.

Town Clerk Spending Request- Tara Hayes was present and explained she is running out of dog licenses for 2023, she has 6 left and about 220 unlicensed dogs. She wants to order the licenses for 2024, and when residents license their dog they'll be able to license for both 2023 and 2024. Mr. Tripp asked the number of dogs in town, Tara said about 700 not including kennels. Mr. Tripp asked if 900 licenses would be enough, she said it should be. She can get 1000 licenses for \$151, or 900 for \$141, but she doesn't think she'll need that many and doesn't want to throw them away. Tara also requested \$1,000.00 for postage. Mr. Tripp asked if she'll explain the license situation when she sends out bills, she said the bills are already mailed but she'll notify residents. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the request to spend \$141.00 for dog licenses, and \$1,000.00 for postage. So voted.

Collector Spending Request- Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the collector spending \$3,000 on postage. So voted.

New Business:

Damazio Builders Contract-Mr. Tripp explained the Senior Center roof is being replaced through the CDBG grant which CMRPC administers for us. Dimazio builders won the bid for the roof and are ready to start the project, which will cost \$92,777.00 in grant funds. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the contract. So voted.

July Fire Report-Mrs. Canada read the report. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the July Fire Report. So voted.

Brownfield Site Assessment access-Mr. Tripp explained that Brandon Avery and CMRPC are helping us with investigating the site of the asbestos factory that has yet to be remediated. The goal is to cleanup the area and connect it with the Playground/Common and the Rail Trail, and possibly create more parking. CMRPC needs permission to access the site, which is fenced in and overgrown. Most of the areas have been remediated and this is the last section remaining. Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to sign the letter to grant access to the site. So voted.

Public Comment:

Chet Lubelczyk questioned the request to spend \$3,000.00 on postage and asked how much the stamps cost. Tara Hayes said through the postage meter they cost 63 cents per stamp. Chet said he can get stamps for 29 cents on Facebook. Ashley said the Town can't buy stamps on Facebook, or with a credit

card. Several people questioned the legitimacy of the stamps. Chet insisted he's been using them for months with no issues. Tara said we have to purchase the stamps this way for our machine. Chet said that's an awful rate. Jamie Gilman said a normal stamp is 66 cents, so we are saving 3 cents per stamp. Chet said we should look in to buying them on Facebook, Ashley said we can't take that risk. There was a brief discussion on the mail going out of the Town offices and who uses the postage meter.

Kathy Crevier had a question about the proposed parking lot behind the Police Dept. Mr. Tripp said we're not proposing anything yet, and explained there's a fenced in wooded area we want looked at. It was proposed a few years ago and Highway measured the area, he believes it would fit 96 cars but we'd need the money to pave, we could look at grant funding. Highway is currently using the empty lot for gravel/sand storage, which will be moved down to Donovan Rd when that building is ready. There was a discussion on parking for Rail Trail. The Brownfield Assessment will simply grant access to the wooded/fenced site so a potential plan can be formed with that unused area.

Kathy applauded Brandon Avery's comment on Facebook about the Rail Trail. Mr. Tripp said there are signs at every intersection, and asked people to pickup after their dogs. There was a discussion on the mess left on the Rail Trail.

Mr. Tripp said he has a couple things to say:

He knows there are potholes, we have over 75 miles of roads in North Brookfield to maintain.

Some departments have a slower response time due to the spending freeze.

There are issues with homeowners taking over Town property and Right of Way areas, fences, stonewalls buildings, and wood stacks should all be removed from town property/right of way.

Residents should be trimming their trees/brushes/shrubs that hang over sidewalks and roads. There are many dangerous intersections due to overgrowth, as well as inability to use the sidewalks.

Highway department will be chip sealing/coating 5 roads in town. The chip seal is a good product. Mr. Tripp asked Tara to put something on Facebook and will have highway notify her when they will be working on those roads so residents are aware.

We are looking for donations to the Rail Trail and for gas and upkeep of trail.

NBHelps Christmas decorations need some refurbishment/painting, volunteers are needed.

Donations to the little park (corner of School and North Main) for upkeep and flowers. Kathy Crevier asked if there were Town funds for that, Mr. Tripp said no. He said Vibram did the flowers and Tina Floria donated the mulch. Mrs. Canada asked if it would make sense to include that park with the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mr. Tripp said he didn't know.

Kathy Crevier asked if Still Hart's was doing a fundraiser for the Playground, Brandon confirmed they are in October. Mr. Tripp said last year they raised about \$3,000.00 for the Playground.

Brandon Avery said the Friends of the Town House will host Oktoberfest on September 30th at Common Ground. This will be a fundraiser for the Town House and they will have activities, food and music.

At 6:43PM, there being no further business, Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre