

North Brookfield Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting

October 5, 2023

North Brookfield Senior Center

Present : Joe Trentacosta, Chair; Chet Lubelczyk; Bob Locatelli; Kathy Crevier; Vaughn Schlegel ; Mike Zalansky, Alternate. Also Present: Shiela LeBlanc, Town Accountant; Tara Hayes, Town Clerk

Absent: Karen Hubacz, Alternate

Minutes of September 21st meeting accepted as corrected:

Failed to list Karen Hubacz as absent

Joe to speak with Ashley, Administrative Asst., questioning where we are with plans for a joint meeting with School Regionalization Committee, BOS, and FinCom.

Lengthy Discussion on State Roads:

A portion of the Roads Budget is designated for State Roads (Rts. 148 and 67).

We are responsible for snow removal and maintaining these roads in our Town

Suggested starting a petition with other towns - West Brookfield, Brookfield, New Braintree, Barre- to have the State take care of the State Roads which run through our towns . Reach out to BOS about this issue. Vaughn to help

Discussion on Benefits for Police Dept. new hire.

Joe met with Police Chief and Town Accountant and discussed the approximate \$38,000 to cover Benefits

for the new hire, and the PD Overtime Account. Last year they spent \$70,000 for Overtime, but budgeted only \$50,000.

Officer Newman is currently not on our Health Plan

Motion made by Joe T., seconded by Chet., to rescind action taken at last meeting

“Based on Chief Smith’s statement that he had the money to cover the benefits, we move the \$38,000 from the Police Department Overtime Account to Treasurer’s Benefits”

The vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstain. The motion passed

Discussion on the Liaison Program and the departments which will be assigned to FinCom members:

Police

Highway

Fire

School - Bob and Joe

Water

Library

Board of Health

COA

We will assign the departments at our next meeting

Huck’s Building: ??????

Architect looking for plans from Jason

New Business:

Discussed the Community IT Grant which would provide a maximum of \$200,000 for a dept., and our choices would be:

- 1) School - 75 computers for staff
- 2) Police - Cameras for building
- 3) Administrative Offices - Computers for Town Offices

Informed by Tara that the BOS has decided to apply for computers for the Town Offices

Discussion on Town Administrator and the recent meeting of the Town Administrator Search Committee and various Town department heads

We did not set a date a for next meeting

Adjourned at 7:25

Kathleen E. Crevier, Secretary