

North Brookfield Finance Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

November 2 , 2023  
NB Senior Center  
Meeting Opened at 5:59

Present: Joe Trentacosta, Chairman; Kathy Crevier; Bob Locatelli, Chet Lubelczyk;  
Vaughn Schlegel

Absent: Karen Hubacz, Alternate

Also Present: Shiela LeBlanc, Town Accountant/School Regionalization Committee;  
Tara Hayes, Town Clerk; Joe Holway, Fire Chief; Darren Anderson, Deputy Fire Chief;  
Ron Ryel, School Board/School Regionalization Committee

October 5th Minutes approved as presented: Motion to accept by Chet, 2nd by Vaughn

Joe Holway, Fire Chief:

Hovercraft damaged and repaired. Brought Fire Vehicle Repair Budget down from \$8,000 to \$4,000

While returning from a fire response this weekend, the Tower Truck was damaged -outrigger  
components torn off - when driving over a manhole cover. Insurance Claim filed

The Chief's vehicle, a 2013 Ford Explorer, experienced some over-heating and was initially classified as "Junk". Upon further inspection, it was determined that the problem is a Water Pump, and the cost to repair would be around \$2,100 to \$2,400. Chief is looking for funds from the FinCom Reserve Account to cover this cost. Informed Chief that we would discuss and get back to him. Chief expressed the importance of the vehicles provided to both the Chief and Assistant Chief. At the end of the meeting we discussed, and agreed that Chief should use money from his (Fire) own budget before we would give money from FinCom.

Discussion on Regionalization with Quaboag High School with Ron Ryel and Shiela LeBlanc, members of the Regionalization Comm. We were advised that a contract was drawn up that all three towns (West Brookfield, Warren, and North Brookfield) adjust to accept North Brookfield, and approved by the Regionalization Attorney. Was then forwarded to North Brookfield Town Counsel for review. Was then sent on to the Chairman of the Regionalization Committee on September 9th. There has been no action taken since that time, even though North Brookfield has expressed great urgency.

We are no closer to regionalization than we were 2½ years ago.

Rumors that West Brookfield has no desire to include North Brookfield

Chairman of the Regionalization Committee does not respond to communication

Noted that once a town is voted in as part of a regionalized school system, it is difficult to get out Schools which were considered for regionalizing were Quaboag, Quabbin, David Prouty, and Quaboag was the most comparable

Suggested that at the next meeting of the School Board this issue be on the agenda and a decision made on

how to proceed.

Should it be put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to rescind vote taken that North Brookfield regionalize?

Very lengthy discussion. Much to consider

Bob suggested that at our next meeting we discuss the list of solutions for the Town's budgeting problems and put together a presentation for the Board of Selectmen.

Discussed the 8 miles of State Roads 67 and 148. Tara reported that Kim of the N.B. Highway Dept. spoke with MA DOT and these sections of roads are deemed in poor condition. Representative Donnie Berthiaume has been informed.

Meeting next Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:00

Voted to adjourn at 7:15. Motion made by Bob and 2nd by Kathy

Kathleen E. Crevier,  
Secretary