

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL, BANQUET ROOM

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Beverly A. Lund called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Other members present: James W. Allen and Ronald J. Dackson.

Camera Operator: John David Holdcraft

Press: Karen Trainer, Ashlee Picard

Public: Barbara Wilson, Donna Lafleur, Peter Martell, Ross Ackerman, Robert A. Shelby, Jr., Joseph A. Wood, Jason M. Barrett, Scott M. Gierlich, Kevin R. Tucker, Steven J. Fernstrom

APPROVAL OF WARRANT:

Mr. Dackson moved to approve the Liability part of the Payroll Warrant for August 29, 2006 in the amount of \$36,119.97; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

Mr. Dackson moved to approve the Expense Warrant for September 5, 2006 in the amount of \$420,205.95 and the Motor Vehicle & Trailer Excise Warrant for Fiscal Year 2005 in the amount of \$32.44 and to have the Town Accountant research the Selectmen's noted questions and report back to them; Mr. Allen seconded; Mr. Dackson abstained; so voted. There was only one check held up for a response and that was a check to Wal-Mart.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to approve the minutes of August 22, 2006; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open House for the Highway Garage – Oct. 14th
State Primary will be at Highway Garage, 56 Mill Street on 9/19/06
Brookfield Cultural Council seeks funding proposals – due 10/16/06

2. MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no Monthly Reports.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

There were no Minutes from Town Boards.

4. **APPOINT AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS**

After meeting the Police Chief's candidates, Mr. Dackson moved to appoint Robert A. Shelby, Jr., Joseph A. Wood, Jason M. Barrett, Scott M. Gierlich, Kevin R. Tucker, and Steven J. Fernstrom as Auxiliary Police Officers with a term to expire June 30, 2007; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

Old Business:

5. **RATIFY APPROVAL FOR WATER DEPT'S RADIO LICENSE**

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to ratify the approval for the Water Department to contact Town Counsel; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

6. **FIRE CHIEF'S OLD VEHICLE REMOVED FROM TOWN**

The Fire Chief will complete the document to declare the vehicle surplus and submit it to the Selectmen.

7. **A-1 PARTS DISCLAIMER**

The Disclaimer on the correct form was received; the Board must sign their approval before the services of A-1 Parts can be used. Chief Martell explained that he uses this company because of the convenience, cost savings and because of they are accommodating. The Selectmen told Chief Martell that they felt there was the appearance of a conflict of interest and that he could not use A-1 Parts services until further notice. In the meantime, they directed the Chief to research other options and report back to them.

8. **RADIO FREQUENCY UPDATE**

The Board had called the Chiefs of Police, Fire and EMS together to discuss the change in radio frequencies. Fire Chief Martell explained that the EMS did not change their frequency; it was the Fire Department after they received a grant that they applied for in 2003. The grant was awarded in 2004 and the process was completed earlier in 2006. He explained further that Dispatch did upgrade at the same time. The change was motivated by the availability of the grant to cover the costs and the need to have separate waves because of too many departments on at one time.

Police Chief Ackerman expressed his concern about call time on the logs; the new cruisers have a narrow splinter band awarded by the FCC. The Police went to 800 Frequency with a grant and with neighboring towns. He explained that now Dispatch serves eleven towns and has to call the Police after they call the Fire Department. The Police still do monitor the Town Band, however.

Mr. Allen moved to authorize Chief Ackerman will find out if reprogramming of the Police Department's five radios can be done and if so, what it will cost; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

9. **RESIGNATION & APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF OVERSEERS - NEW BRAINTREE REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER**

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to accept Keith Karrmann's resignation from the Board of Overseers with regret and send him a letter of appreciation for his years of service; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

Nominations to replace Mr. Karrmann had been solicited by the Board; the EMS Chief, Donna Lafleur nominated Fire Chief Peter Martell; Police Chief Ross Ackerman nominated Officer Mitchell Mateiko and Officer Gary Ventura as an alternate or assistant.

Chief Martell explained that the purpose of the Board was to act as a conduit to funnel information between the Towns and the Dispatch.

Mr. Dackson moved to appoint Officer Mitchell Mateiko as Brookfield's representative to the Board of Overseers; Ms. Lund seconded; Mr. Allen abstained; so voted.

10. **POSSIBLE CHANGE OF NAME FOR RIVER/UPPER RIVER STREET**

Mr. Allen reported that he talked with residents of River Street and had changed his name about making the official name of River Street Upper River Street. The Board agreed to take no action other than to ask the Highway Superintendent to remove any signs indicating the road may be called Upper River Street and replace with River Street.

11. **TIME SHEET CHANGE**

EMS Chief, Donna Lafleur questioned the Selectmen's change in policy making it mandatory for the employee to sign his/her timesheets. She stated that her staff is not always available and do not work routine or consistent times. Mr. Dackson explained that the purpose of the change was for uniformity and authentication.

12. **UPDATE ON MR. HOFFEY'S TREE CUTTING ON ROUTE 9**

Ms. Lund read a report indicating that the large tree in front of Mr. Hoffey's home was cut because it was deemed unsafe by the State; the cutting had nothing to do with the sidewalks that the state were constructing at the time. Ms. Lund entertained a motion to acknowledge receipt; Mr. Allen so moved adding to send a letter to the State asking to plant a shade tree indigenous to the area but not a Norway or Red Maple; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

14. **FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER RESIGNATION**

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to accept Colby Tytula's resignation from his position as full-time Police Officer with regret and send him a letter of appreciation for his years of service; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

Chief Ackerman listed some of Officer Tytula's reasons for leaving as hourly rate, shift differential, lack of education incentives and opportunity to advance.

15. NOISE COMPLAINT – QUABOAG STREET - UPDATE

Chief Ackerman reported from his investigation into motorcycle racing off of Quaboag Street in the area behind the Clam Box that it appears “that, at certain times, up to five youths may be using the abandoned racetrack for practice. Two to three of the individuals that use the track race in sanctioned competitions elsewhere. No fees are being charged for the usage of the track. The Town Clerk found minutes from a meeting of the Board of Selectmen stating there ill be no organized racing in the Town of Brookfield.” Chief Ackerman said that the Selectmen “need to deem whether or not this should be considered organized racing” and if they “feel a petition is also necessary”.

Mr. Allen moved to have the Police Chief acquire copies of similar by-laws from Warren and Spencer, give them to the By-Law Committee for consideration of inclusion on the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

16. SPENCER NEW LEADER POLICE LOGS

Chief Ackerman reported that Officer Tytula had been submitting police logs to the New Leader but for some reason they were not printed. The matter has been resolved and another officer has been given the responsibility to submit the log reports.

17. INOPERABLE AND UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

Chief Ackerman reported that his department has been handing out “numerous flyers and posting copies of the by-law in various places around the Town”; they have run into several problems with the by-law itself. The Town Clerk has supplied a list of businesses with a license that would allow more than one unregistered vehicles.

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to notify the Class I & II license holders when applying for renewal to include the number of unregistered vehicles, exact description of the site; Mr. Dackson so moved; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

18. POLICE DETAILS

Chief Ackerman reported that he discussed this with the Highway Superintendent and advised him that Police Details were not needed for road sweeping and mowing; details will be needed in certain areas when cleaning catch basins. Chief Ackerman reported that he had initially “signed off” on having details in the areas on Lake Road where the Highway Department is working but since he has received complaints, he believes there should be details in certain areas. He said that the Highway Department is using proper signage. Chief Ackerman will communicate these details to the Highway Superintendent.

19. PROPOSED SAND POLICY

The Highway Superintendent's proposed policy was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Allen moved to adopt the policy once the location of the sand pile is known and advertise it at an appropriate time; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

New Business:

20. INTERSECTION OF LAKE & RICE CORNER ROAD – REQUEST FOR 2-WAY STOP SIGN

Mr. Joseph Murray had expressed his concerns to the Board about this intersection and requested a 2-way stop sign. Chief Ackerman said that there were not a lot of accidents at this intersection but there were close calls. Herb Chaffee, Highway Superintendent via e-mail had proposed making the intersection more of a "T" shape with a stop sign on Lake Road. Mr. Allen moved to place a stop sign on Lake Road where Rice Corner Road intersects it; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

21. STOP SIGN AT TOP OF LOWER RIVER & RIVER STREET

Chief Ackerman requested that the Route 148 sign be moved to the "island" area because many people were going down Lower River Street thinking that it was River Street (Route 148).

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to approve the stop sign at the top of Lower River Street and to ask for the 148 sign to be relocated; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

22. STOP SIGN AT BOTTOM OF HOWARD STREET

Chief Ackerman recommended the STOP sign be moved onto Howard Street and a "T" intersection (← →) be placed on Pleasant Street; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

24. PLUMBING & GAS PERMIT FEES

This was postponed to the September 19th meeting.

25. PLUMBING FOR HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The cost of this project is in the range of \$200 to \$300 depending upon what the plumber finds when he tears up the floor. He will charge for actual time and materials only. Mr. Allen moved to proceed with the project and pay from Town Hall Improvements Account; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

26. WAGE AUTHORIZATION FORMS – REVIEW PROCEDURE

This was postponed.

27. DISCUSSION: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Lund entertained a motion to rescind a vote taken at the last meeting to hold an Executive Session with the Town Hall employees; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

28. EXHAUST FAN PROJECT FOR TOWN HALL BASEMENT

This was discussed again; the purpose is to alleviate some of the dampness in the cellar. The Selectmen directed the Administrative Assistant to ask the representative from Massachusetts Historical Commission if this would be allowed and to get prices.

29. DRIVEWAY ON TOWN PROPERTY – WEBBER ROAD

The owner of the property discussed, Mr. Mayo, now has his property for sale; the Selectmen agreed that this matter needs to be resolved as quickly as possible. Ms. Lund read the response from the Zoning Board of Appeals who reported that there isn't anything they can do; they believe the permit for the driveway was approved by the previous Highway Superintendent and he recommended the Board seek advice from Town Counsel. Mr. Dackson moved to send an urgent request to Town Counsel and to notify Mr. Mayo of the Town's actions; Ms. Lund seconded; Mr. Allen abstained; so voted.

New Business:

31. APPROVAL OF CHAPTER 90 CONTRACT FOR INCREASED GRANT

Mr. Allen moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract which gives the Town an additional \$47,438 in these funds; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

32. CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The Board reviewed the letter of intent from Heath Warren Grimes of 34 Gay Road and his recommendation by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Allen moved to appoint Mr. Grimes for a term to expire on June 30, 2008; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

33. EASEMENT DEED – D&D REALTY

A copy of the Conservation Restriction and Deed of Easement to the conservation Commission of the Town of Brookfield by D & D Realty Development, Inc., Trustee, Jessrielle Estates Homeowners Association Trust dated 11/18/05 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds for 25.07 acres of "open space" was reviewed and it was noted that this is public lands for hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. A copy of the deed is on file in the Assessor's office, Town Clerk's office, Conservation Commission and the Selectmen's office.

33. TOWN CLERK'S REQUEST TO USE TOWN COUNSEL

Mr. Allen moved to authorize the Town Clerk to use Town Counsel to clear up the problem with the inadvertent combination of the Cemetery Commissioners and the Shade Tree Trustees; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

Correspondence:

34. UNITED NATIONS PROCLAMATION

Mr. Allen moved to only acknowledge receipt; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.

35. **RESULTS OF SPRING 2006 GROUNDWATER SAMPLING FOR MILL STREET BROWNFIELDS PROPERTY**
Mr. Dackson moved to acknowledge receipt of this report from Metcalf & Eddy; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.
36. **GRAND OPENING – QUABOAG HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**
Mr. Allen moved to acknowledge receipt of and post the invitation to attend and celebrate the grand opening of the new Quaboag Historical Society Museum, Sunday, September 24th from 1 to 4 pm on Front Street in West Brookfield; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.
37. **UNITED WAY BREAKFAST ANNOUNCEMENT**
Mr. Allen moved to acknowledge receipt of the announcement; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.
38. **GAS LEAK COMPLAINT**
Ms. Lund announced that the Garden Club is happy with KeySpan's response to their recent complaint regarding a gas leak at the intersection of Routes 9 & 148 that was killing their flowers. The matter has been resolved.

At this time, a member of the audience noted an apparent gas leak on Central Street by the Tip Top Country Store. This report will be called in to KeySpan.

Other:

39. **NEW D.E.P. PROJECT MANAGER FOR BROOKFIELD'S BROWNFIELD'S PROJECT**
Ms. Lund announced that the Board had recently received word that Garry Waldeck is Brookfield's new project Manager for the above project.
40. **SEWER HOOKUP**
In response to a June 22, 2006 email from James Cooke, Mr. Allen moved to send a letter to the Sturbridge Sewer Commission and copy Mr. Cooke, Sturbridge Selectmen and the Tantasqua Regional School Committee to request a feasibility study of continuing the sewer line down Route 148 through Brookfield center to Route 9 and asking for state funding; Mr. Dackson seconded; so voted.
41. **COMPLAINT REGARDING CUMBERLAND FARMS & PLACEMENT OF THEIR PROPANE TANKS**
An email complaint was received from Ron Couture; he felt the tanks were too close to the gas pumps. The Fire Chief checked into the matter and found Cumberland Farms was in compliance but he did ask them for an additional Jersey barrier. Ms. Lund entertained a motion to acknowledge receipt and to thank the Fire Chief for his timely investigation; Mr. Dackson so moved; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

42. PROPOSED TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Advertisement was received for a telephone/security system. This is to be referred to the Highway Garage for their consideration.

43. TOWN HALL ROOF PROJECT

Ms. Lund read a report of the progress of the roof project as of the previous Wednesday morning's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, at 9:40 Mr. Dackson moved to adjourn; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Date Approved by Board: _____