

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL
MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2010

SPECIAL SESSION

Chairman Rudy Heller called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Other members present: James Allen and Peter O'Connell. Mr. Heller led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Camera Operator: Mike Jones

Press: None

Public: None

1. 33 RIVER STREET CONDEMNED GARAGE

Mrs. Neylon called the attention of the Board to Building Inspector Jeff Taylor's condemnation of the garage at 33 River Street. Because the building is in Tax Title status and the owners cannot be reached, Mr. Taylor felt that the responsibility for action devolved on the Selectmen. After discussion, Mr. Allen moved and Mr. O'Connell seconded the motion to:

1. direct Mrs. Neylon to ask the Police to put up yellow warning tape around the garage;
2. ask Mr. Seery whether the garage waste could be disposed of at the Transfer station or whether an outside contractor would need to haul it away;
3. inquire of her STAM network to clarify who has the authority to condemn property in this situation and then report back to the Chairman, who may also wish to consult with Town Counsel;

So voted. Mr. Heller and Mrs. Neylon would then report to the Board at the next Selectmen's meeting.

2. TOWN HALL DRAINAGE ISSUE

Mrs. Neylon reported that custodian Bill Thompson felt something should be done to address water infiltration into the basement of the Town Hall on the southwest corner of the building. Chairman Heller agreed to ask Mr. Thompson, working in conjunction with the Highway Department, to present and plan and an estimate of costs if the Highway Department were to restructure the pavement and drainage between the EMS and Town Hall. The plan should not have a negative effect on existing drainage or on the septic system.

3. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE

Mrs. Neylon noted that the Town Clerk is required to schedule a new voter registration 20 days in advance of the Annual Town Meeting, which the Board had changed from May 7 to June 18. Because that registration day falls on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, she inquired whether the Board wanted to change the Annual Town Meeting date from Friday June 18 to Monday June 21. After discussion and after confirming that whichever candidate is elected to the position of Town Clerk would be willing to staff the voter registration on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, if necessary, the Board decided to leave the Annual Town Meeting on Friday, June 18, 2010. Mrs. Neylon was asked to publicize the date of the Annual Town meeting in the Citizen, on the town website and public access channel, and through a press release to area newspapers. Mr. O'Connell volunteered to contact the schools to encourage them to promote new voter registration.

4. FY11 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board continued its budget review by first reviewing income estimates. Subsequently, it reviewed several budget lines and forwarded to the Town Accountant provisionally approved budgets for several departments. Within that discussion, the Board assigned Mr. O'Connell (1) the task of contacting our auditors to explore the option of cancelling our contract for annual audits in the next two years and replacing it with an agreement to do an audit every 18 months, which would remove the \$12,000 audit expense for FY11 and (2) the task of requesting Superintendent of Schools Daniel Durgin to include the Brookfield Highway Barn as a site in Tantasqua Regional Schools' RFP for solar installation.

At 11:07 am, Mr. Allen left the meeting. Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Heller seconded a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. (Reason numbered 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body) and to return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjournment. Roll call vote: Mr. Heller voted Aye, Mr. O'Connell voted Aye; so voted.

At 11: 48 am, the Board returned to open session. Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Heller seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter S. O'Connell, Clerk

Date approved by Board: _____