

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

MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2010

SPECIAL SESSION

Vice Chairman James Allen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Other members present: Peter O'Connell. Rudy Heller was excused as he was attending a meeting on solar power for municipalities with Bruce Clarke.

Camera Operator: None

Press: None

Public: Matthew Bansfield, Michael Seery, Ronald Couture

The primary purpose of this meeting was budget discussion and for items that were indicated at the May 4, 2010 meeting would be brought up again at this meeting.

1. MERRICK PUBLIC LIBRARY – HEATING SYSTEM

Mr. Matthew Bansfield attended the meeting to ask that the Selectmen sign a document authorizing National Grid to install a gas line that the Library may hook up to if their research indicates that they should switch from oil to gas for their heating and air conditioning system. Since the CDBG-R infrastructure work is about to begin on Common and Lincoln Streets, this is the best time to do the gas line work and there will be no cost to the Town for this work.

Mr. O'Connell moved to approve the work order and authorize Vice Chairman Allen to sign, this approval to be contingent upon there being no charge to the Town and no obligation or commitment to the Town; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

2. INTER-MUNICIPAL RFP WITH NORTH BROOKFIELD

An e-mail was received from Chairman Heller asking the Board to authorize signing of the Request for Quotes (RFQ) that is about to be advertised. The RFQ would be for services at the Transfer Stations of both the Boards of Health for Brookfield and North Brookfield. Mr. O'Connell indicated that there was no signature action needed at this time as this document is a solicitation for bids not a contract or agreement. This subject will again be discussed at the Board's May 18th meeting.

3. REPEAL OF CHAPTER 40B

The Board again reviewed the e-mail from Mr. Tim Simon who had attended a meeting on the movement to repeal Chapter 40B. Although the Board has written to the Town's legislatures in the past to encourage the repeal or modification of Chapter 40B, they agreed to take no action at this time other than to ask Mr. Simon to keep them advised of the progress and of any action that they should take.

4. REVIEW OF ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. O'Connell moved to approve the addition of two articles on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting; one to deal with the adoption of the Massachusetts Preservation Act and the other to deal with the establishment of an Agricultural Commission. (Shown as Articles 30 & 31 on the current draft)

Mr. O'Connell moved to approve Articles 1 – 10 (“boxed” articles) to be on the Warrant; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

The following articles were discussed individually and voted as a block at the conclusion of the discussion. Mr. O'Connell made the motion to add these articles to the Warrant; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted:

Article 11 – Cemetery Matching Fund - \$15,000

Article 12 – Cemetery Fund Transfer – current estimate about \$1,800

Article 13 – Cemetery Regulations approval under Chapter 114, Section 23

Article 14 – Ambulance Transfer to Diesel Account

Article 15 – Ambulance Transfer to Expense Account

Article 16 – Ambulance Transfer to Squad Wages

Article 17 – Town Hall Improvement Account \$10,000 (\$5,000 to be used for masonry work and \$5,000 to be used to hire expert to evaluate the roof)

Article 18 – 350th Anniversary Celebration -- Mr. Allen will check with the Committee to find out how much they need. At this time, the line item for the Cultural Council for funding for the celebration was discussed. The Board decided that there were two separate requests for the celebration. Mr. Allen will also find out what the Cultural Council plans to do with the funds that they had requested.

Article 19 – Fire Station masonry repairs

Article 20 – Fleet Stabilization

Article 21 – Chapter 90
Article 22 – Highway Roads
Article 23 – Highway Vehicle Acquisition Account

Article 24 – Water Pump Station Account
Article 25 – Water Dept. Transfer

Article 26 – Fund Banister Common & Mall Committee
Article 27 – Free Cash (MOVE THIS TO THE END OF THE WARRANT)
Article 28 – Fund Clean Energy (Match the grant received)
Article 29 – Fund Computer replacements

The Board agreed that the grant writer account should be funded as a line item not an article.

5. **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Snow & Ice Authorized Over-expenditure: Mr. O'Connell moved to approve the payment of \$31,000 Fiscal 2010 Snow and Ice Account from Free Cash; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

Audit: The Town traditionally has an annual audit, if this can be changed to every 18 months, then the \$12,000 can be reduced to zero for the FY 2011 budget but left alone for now.

Line Items:

24 – Selectmen's Clerk Wages – Advisory Committee did not approve (\$5,720)
Selectmen agreed to keep this in.

26 – Regional Agreements – increase to \$500 and this will be a line item not an article. Mr. O'Connell moved to rescind a previous vote of the Selectmen that this would be funded by an Article; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

43 – Accountant budget preparation \$1,500 maximum

46 – Advisory Committee (AC) Clerk wages \$100

47 – AC Expenses \$100

48 – Warrant Books (print & mail) – change name to Warrant Books printing \$1,000

Note: The Advisory Committee cut their own budget; the Town Accountant will function as their clerk for budget purposes.

65 – Collector Expenses. A revised budget was received from the Tax Collector. She requested the number be changed to \$7,582. The Selectmen revised to 7,600.

At this point in the meeting the Board discussed the Transfer Station with Michael Seery, Chairman of the Board of Health. Mr. Seery said they are making good progress toward level funding. The wage increase that they requested was due to their efforts to upgrade employee James Hanson's step & grade and his job description due to a change in his responsibilities. They intend for him to receive the same hourly rate as he does at his Highway Department job.

254 – Director of Veteran's Services salary – Selectmen agreed there should be no 1% increase.

264 – 270 – Library – agreed to accept new figures as submitted by the Library:

268 – Library Expenses \$9,974

269 – Library books, videos, periodicals \$18,679

276 – South Pond Beach \$1,000 – agreed to leave this in for now.

284 – This is not the same as Article 18 on the Warrant. What is \$3,500 for? Mr. Allen will check on this.

319 – Unemployment Insurance – leave at \$7,500

321 – Group Health & Life \$316,155 leave/no change

Amounts of Articles (for budget purposes) – T= money to be transferred:

11 \$1,500	18 \$5,000	25 \$30,000
12 \$1,800 T	19 \$6,600	26 \$5,500
13 -0-	20 \$5,000	27 to be determined
14 \$1,600 T	21 \$131,022	28 \$2,300
15 \$31,700 T	22 \$31,000	29 \$15,000
16 \$109,538T	23 \$15,000	30 -0-
17 \$10,000	24 \$30,000	31 -0-

Mr. O'Connell presented a draft schedule for the time left before the June 18, 2010 Annual Town Meeting. The schedule included a joint meeting of the Selectmen and the Advisory Committee and the possibility of a "hearing" or "question & answer session" open to the public sometime before the actual meeting. It also included having the budget ready to go to the printer on June 1st. After the scheduled was discussed; Mr. O'Connell moved to approve the schedule contingent with setting the Hearing Date before June 1st; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

6. HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Ron Couture attended to explain to the Board that the Commission only has two active members but Mr. and Mrs. Puza (Peg & Bill) were willing to be appointed. The Commission will be holding a meeting next week so Mr. Couture requested the two members be appointed today so that they would have time to get sworn in before the meeting. Mr. O'Connell moved to appoint Mr. William Puza and Mrs. Margaret Puza to the Historical Commission, both for a term to expire on June 30, 2010; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

At about 12:15 pm, Mr. O'Connell moved to enter into Executive Session for Exemption #6 (given below) and to return to open Session only for the purpose of adjournment; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted with Mr. Allen voting aye; and Mr. O'Connell voting aye.

(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body with a person, firm, or corporation.

At about 12:22 pm, the Board returned to Open Session; Mr. O'Connell moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Date approved by Board: _____