

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL, SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2010

SPECIAL SESSION

Chairman Rudy Heller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Other members present: James Allen and Peter O'Connell.

Camera Operator: None
Press: Jennifer Grybowski
Public: Gerald Johnson, Betty Benoit

Agenda Items:

1. OSMP CHAPTER ON TRANSPORTATION & GOVERNANCE

Mr. O'Connell submitted his comments on the Open Space & Master Plan (OSMP) chapter on governance. He felt that the OSMP Committee should analyze the input from others, but then make recommendations based on their own analysis. He felt that the discussion of town finances needed to include the healthy stabilization account, the relatively low debt, the role of Proposition 2 ½ on expenditures, the recommendations of the auditors, and a somewhat more comprehensive analysis of trends in both taxes and expenditures. The Board agreed with Mr. O'Connell who then volunteered to take their written comments and merge them with his for a draft to submit to the OSMP Committee. Each member will get their comments to Mr. O'Connell as soon as possible.

Mr. Heller felt it was the goal of the OSMP to present the final plan to the voters at the June 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

2. CHANGING TRENDS IN EMS SERVICES

Mr. Heller and EMS Chief, Donna Lafleur agreed to postpone her presentation to a future Selectmen's meeting. Mr. O'Connell felt that the Board should complete her performance review when she came to the meeting and said that her strong leadership is why Brookfield has one of the few ALS programs available in this area.

3. WINTER PARKING BAN

Mr. Heller entertained a motion to implement the winter parking ban from November 15, 2010 through April 1, 2011 as written; Mr. Allen so moved; Mr. O'Connell

seconded; so voted. The Chief will be asked to provide guidance to his officers to give some leeway for a first offense.

4. SAW MILL POND DAM REPORT

The Board agreed to invite a representative of Fuss & O'Neill to a future Selectmen's meeting so the Board can come to some agreement on this report as it must be filed in Boston by the end of December. .

5. PLANNING BOARD'S DECISION REGARDING A REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A "REPOSSESSION LOT"

The Board received a copy of the Planning Board's denial of Mr. Mark Hammond's request for a Special Permit for a "repossession lot". Should he decided to do so, he can appeal the decision to Superior Court.

6. SELECTMEN'S MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 3rd

Mr. O'Connell moved that the Board should meet on Wednesday, November 3rd at 6:30 at the Elementary School; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted. Ms. Neylon has acquired permission to use the school.

7. COMPUTER PURCHASE

The Administrative Assistant pointed out to the Board that, during Chairman Heller's absence from town last week, the computer used by the Water Department had serious problems and that she with the assistance of Lawrence Van Cott of Xibexa, ordered a new computer that is due to be delivered on Friday of this week.

After some discussion Mr. O'Connell moved that the Administrative Assistant should communicate to the Water Department Superintendent and the Commissioners that the Water Department pay for this computer themselves and to decide what they wished to do with the old computer. Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

8. RATIFY SCHOOL WINDOW CONTRACT

Mr. Heller explained that Tantasqua Regional School Superintendent, Dan Durgin, required additional signatures by today for the contract Massachusetts School Building Authority for the window replacement at the Elementary School. Mr. Allen moved to ratify the signing of the contract; Mr. O'Connell seconded; so voted. Mr. O'Connell thanked Mr. Durgin, Mrs. Hosterman (School Principal) and the School Committee for moving forward so expeditiously to acquire this green energy grant.

9. PLOWING PRIVATE WAYS

At an earlier meeting, Mr. Allen had requested that the Highway Department compile a list of private ways that are not plowed and the reasons they are not plowed. Ms. Neylon indicated that such a list would be very extensive and therefore would be time-consuming to compile. SThe Administrative Assistant was asked to file the report once it is received; to put the question of the maintenance of private roads that currently are plowed on a March agenda and to ensure that the question of the plowing and maintenance of private ways are articles for Annual Town Meeting.

10. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING UPDATE

The Board reviewed STM articles, proposed funding and their recommendations. At about 11:00 am, the meeting moved to the location of 3, 5, 7 Prouty Street, the purchase of which is on the warrant of the October 29, 2010 Special Town Meeting. Joining the Selectmen and the realtor for a tour of the dwelling were: Gerald Johnson (Advisory Committee), Michael Seery (Board of Health), Kenneth Cleveland (Conservation Commission and Peter Martell (Fire Chief). The meeting resumed in the Selectmen's office at about 12:10 pm. Unless otherwise noted, the Board recommends the passage of the article. If there is no motion to recommend or not recommend, then the matter did not change from a vote of a previous Selectmen's meeting.

ARTICLES 1 through 4: "late bills" requiring a 9/10's vote; the funds will be raised and appropriated.

ARTICLE 5: Pay for replacement cruiser "totaled" in June accident with a transfer of \$27,335, received as an insurance payment, and a transfer of \$4,498 from the Police Chief Salary Account to the Police Vehicle Acquisition Account

ARTICLE 6: Transfer \$15,000 from the Police Department Full-Time Account to the Police Department Part-Time Account.

ARTICLE 7: Pass over the article to add funding to Police Chief Salary Account since the new Chief has accepted the budgeted salary.

ARTICLE 8: Purchase 3, 5, 7 Prouty Street properties. (2/3 vote). As a result of Mr. O'Connell's motion, Mr. Allen's second and a unanimous vote, the motion will read: "I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, upon such terms and conditions at they may determine, to acquire on behalf of the Town, by purchase from the Trustees of McKeon Family Revocable Living Trust, for general municipal purposes, certain premises, being 3 Prouty Street (045/006.C-0001-0036.0), 5 Prouty Street (045/006.C-0001-0037.0) and 7 Prouty Street (045/006.C-0001-0038.0), being a portion of the property described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45977, Page 262, further to

borrow the sum of \$155,000.00 and transfer the sum of \$5,088.15 from the School Construction Capital Project Fund for the purchase of the afore-described parcels and any expenses related thereto.”

ARTICLE 9: Reduce dollar amount of vote of 2010 Annual Town Meeting for maturing debt and interest for Elementary school. As a result of Mr. O'Connell's motion, Mr. Allen's second and a unanimous vote, the motion will read: “I move that the Town vote to reduce the amounts voted at the Annual Town Meeting, June 18, 2010 Article 2, maturing debt for the Brookfield Elementary School by \$220,303 and maturing interest Brookfield Elementary School by \$90,068.”

ARTICLE 10: Amend the amount voted at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting for Brookfield's share of the FY11 Tantasqua Regional transportation assessment to reduce it by \$16,881.00.

ARTICLE 11: Enact a temporary tax amnesty. It was agreed that Mr. O'Connell would make this motion to initiate discussion but that the Selectmen would not recommend this article. The Board endorsed Mr. O'Connell's voter handout.

ARTICLE 12: Pass over the request to add \$5,000 to the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Tax Title Account since the amount is already on the recap sheet.

ARTICLE 13: Transfer from the General Insurance Account the sum of \$2,000 for the Highway Department Expense Account and the sum of \$4,000 for the Highway Department Overtime/Wages Account.

ARTICLE 14: Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Allen seconded the motion transfer \$1616 in additional funds from General Insurance to meet the Municipal Appropriation Requirement for the Merrick Public Library Book Account. So voted.

ARTICLE 15: Transfer \$2,000 in additional funds from General Insurance to the Computer Maintenance Account.

ARTICLE 16: Would have added funds to the Unemployment Account but Mr. O'Connell moved to pass over; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

ARTICLE 17: Raise & appropriate \$5,000 for the Veteran's Case Worker Account.

ARTICLE 18: Would have raised funds for Town Hall roof repair but Mr. O'Connell moved to pass over; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

ARTICLE 19: Mr. O'Connell moved to raise and appropriate \$15,000 in additional money for the Legal Expense Account; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted. This is about \$5,000 less than the estimate provided by Town Counsel.

ARTICLE 20: Accept the job description of Municipal Clerk II and include the title of Municipal Clerk II with the Grade 4 and 185 points in the Personnel By-Law, Chapter XV, Section 2, Mandatory Classification.

ARTICLE 21: Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Allen seconded the motion to transfer \$2,000 from General Insurance Account to pay newly accepted Municipal Clerk wages. So voted with Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Heller voting for the motion and Mr. Allen abstaining.

ARTICLE 22: Amends the Personnel By-Law, Chapter XV, Section 2, Mandatory Classification, changing the Grade from 8 with 285 points to Grade 10 with 355 points for the position of Administrative Assistant, as calculated by the Personnel Board.

ARTICLE 23: Mr. O'Connell moved to transfer \$2,064 from the General Insurance Account to pay the new salary rate for the Administrative Assistant for the rest of the calendar year; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted. If passed by the voters, this would change the hourly rate of pay from \$18.10 to \$19.60.

ARTICLE 24 (add to the Stabilization Account) and **ARTICLE 25** (Reduce the tax levy): Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Allen seconded to recommend these two articles but leave the amount blank at this time, pending discussion with the Advisory Committee; so voted.

NOTE: At about this time Mr. Heller received a telephone call from the realtor for the Prouty Street property who had spoken with the sellers. The sellers had indicated to her that there was no room for negotiation in the sale price.

ARTICLE 26: Accept "Right to Farm" By-Law: Mr. O'Connell moved and Mr. Allen seconded to pass over this article in favor of further vetting by town boards; so voted.

Initiative Petition:

ARTICLE 27: "Do the voters for the Town of Brookfield want the Town of Brookfield's Tax Collector to become an elected position not appointed by the Board of Selectman." It was agreed that the Selectmen would not make this motion or recommend its passage.

Other:

11. RESPONSE TO TAX TITLE LETTER

Mr. O'Connell's response letter to taxpayer and attorney Richard Neal denying his request to be reimbursed for interest on back taxes was approved by the Board.

12. PROUTY STREET PROPERTY

Chairman Heller asked the Board's permission to send a letter to Megan DiPrete, of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) regarding this

property to find out what kind of information would be needed should the Town decide to request a Phase I Hazardous Mitigation Status report. Mr. O'Connell moved to give the authorization to Mr. Heller; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business before the Board, Mr. O'Connell moved to adjourn at 1:26 pm; Mr. Heller seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Date approved by Board: _____