

**Town of Brookfield
Board of Selectmen - Special Meeting
Town Hall, Selectmen's Office
Thursday, November 18, 2011 – 2:15 pm**

Members Present: Peter O'Connell, Rudy Heller and Stephen Comtois. Ms. Neylon was on vacation. Others present: Highway Superintendent Chaffee, Treasurer Frangiamore, Tax Collector McElroy and Town Clerk Seery.

Mr. O'Connell called the meeting to order at 2:15 and entertained the following motion made by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Comtois: "I move that the Board of Selectmen ratify the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Town of Brookfield made by Vice-Chairman Heller at the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Chaffee to conform to the State of Emergency Declared by Governor Patrick on Saturday October 29, 2011." So voted.

1. Report of the Highway Superintendent on the October 29, 2011 storm clean-up:

Mr. Chaffee estimated that total clean-up costs will total between \$40,000 and \$50,000, not including regular Highway salaries, but including overtime, extra labor and operating costs. Remaining work includes the removal of hanging limbs over streets and highways and the chipping of the limbs and brush cleared off the roads. He indicated that he had met with FEMA representatives, who approved of and commended our approach to the emergency and of our documentation of expenses, and who gave his permission to move ahead to incur expenses for the final clean-up. As of now, FEMA will reimburse 75% of town costs, but there is a possibility that Central Mass will qualify for 100% reimbursement.

Mr. O'Connell reported on a conversation with Accountant Benoit and Treasurer Frangiamore who cited DOR procedures for applying to deficit spend and to borrow money to pay for these costs. Ms. Benoit noted that the Treasurer could borrow from Stabilization as long as Stabilization funds were restored by June 30, 2011. Mr. Chaffee recommended that we ask for permission to deficit spend up to \$50,000.

2. Application to the DOR for Permission to Deficit Spend and to Borrow for Expenses Related to the State of Emergency:

Mr. O'Connell entertained the following motion: In accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 8(9) there is authorized and approved the borrowing of \$50,000 to pay emergency appropriations associated with the Town's response to the October 29, 2011 snow storm and State of Emergency and further voted that each member of the Board of Selectmen, that the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer are authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing vote. So voted.

Mr. Comtois, as Clerk of the Board, Town Clerk Seery and Treasurer Frangiamore all signed forms and Mr. Seery attached his seal to indicate their agreement with this vote and further that the above described votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the subject matter of the votes were taken in executive session, all in accordance with General Laws Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25.

3. Review of Special Town Meeting Articles:

- a. Treasurer Sheila Frangiamore and Tax Collector Brenda McElroy were present to discuss their proposal to transfer \$2,000 in clerical time from the Tax Collector back to the Treasurer Clerk's account. Ms. McElroy felt she had caught up on her work and could spare the clerical time. Ms. Frangiamore presented a projected schedule of clerk time that showed that with the \$2,000, she would have sufficient clerk time to make it through mid-May. The Board agreed that it could then address the projected shortfall using a Municipal Relief Transfer. Ms. Frangiamore said that she would not spend more than she needed. Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Comtois seconded a motion to unanimously support this revised proposal for Article 14.
- b. Ms. Frangiamore presented data related to Article 23 that showed that the heirs of the Kroll family owed the town more than \$18,000 in back taxes, interest and fees, in contrast to the \$7,000 figure used by the previous tax collector. Mr. O'Connell volunteered to check these figures, but if they were correct, no money would be needed to fund the eminent domain taking of the Kroll property since back taxes exceeded the \$14,900 value of the property.
- c. Mr. O'Connell reported on information related to the mosquito control article he had received from the Mass Department of Public Health and the Department of Agriculture. The Board made no change in its position.
- d. Mr. O'Connell reviewed minor changes to Article 4 suggested by Town Counsel.

4. Review of Agenda for Selectmen's meeting on November 22, 2011: Mr. Heller and Mr. Comtois reviewed the draft agenda and made minor revisions. The Agenda was then given to Mr. Seery to post.

5. Executive Session: At 3:50, Mr. Heller moved to go into executive session under exemption four "to discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices." So voted with Mr. Heller, Mr. Comtois, and Mr. O'Connell each voting "Aye."

At 4:20, the Board returned to open session. Mr. Heller moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Comtois seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter S. O'Connell, Chair

Approved: December 20, 2011