

**Town of Brookfield
Selectmen's Meeting
Town Hall, Banquet Room
Tuesday, June 26, 2012**

Mr. Comtois called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Other members present: Rudy Heller and Nicholas M. Thomo.

Camera Operator: None

Press: Karen Trainor, David Dore

Public: John David Holdcraft, Patricia White, Barbara Wilson, Herbert Chaffee, Donald Faugno

Note: The minutes of this meeting reflect the order of the printed agenda NOT the order of the actual meeting.

Since this was a Special meeting, the normal beginning of the meeting was waived.

Public Access Period:

John David Holdcraft: Mr. Holdcraft proceeded to tell the Selectmen that they must appoint one of themselves to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Agenda:

1. DISCUSSION: TIMELINE FOR QUABOAG BRIDGE PROJECT

Mr. Comtois noted the extensive response from the public with the large majority wanting the Selectmen to proceed with the bridge reconstruction project.

Ms. Neylon's contact with the ODS and then the Brookfield Town Clerk had resulted in the recommendation that the Special Town Meeting be held on Thursday, July 26th and the final day to register voters would be Friday, July 6th from 9 am to 8 pm.

After some discussion, it was agreed that there were still too many questions to be answered before a date for a Special Town Meeting and informational hearing could be set. Mr. Heller will come up with a list of questions and forward them to the MassDOT for answers prior to the Board's next meeting (July 10, 2012). In the meantime, the Town Clerk will be notified that there will not be a Special Town Meeting in July.

2. DISCUSSION: HIGHWAY – WAGE AUTHORIZATION FORM

Chairman Comtois explained that an "issue" was raised at the Board's last meeting and asked Mr. Chaffee, Highway Superintendent, if Mr. Jonathan Bemis was currently working for him. Mr. Chaffee replied, "No". Mr. Comtois then

asked if Mr. Bemis was currently on the payroll and Mr. Chaffee repeated his reply. That was the end of the discussion.

While he was at this meeting, Superintendent Chaffee told the Board that he and his department were busy putting the cover on the new salt shed and that, in July, he would be bringing in 500 yards of winter sand and spending from the Snow and Ice Budget. These materials would be put into the new salt shed and would be an aid in helping them reach the high places. He also said that if the price of winter sand should be higher in the fall, purchasing it in July would be “money in the bank”. There were no objections.

3. MUNICIPAL RELIEF REQUESTS

Mr. Heller moved to approve the Municipal Relief Transfer request from the Police Department transferring \$558.51 from Police Station Expenses Account to their Administrative Secretary Wages Account; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Mr. Heller moved to approve the Municipal Relief Transfer request from the Police Department transferring \$1280 from the Police Department Overtime/Wages Account to the Police Department Part-time Wages Account; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Mr. Heller moved to approve the Municipal Relief Transfer request from the Merrick Public Library Trustees transferring \$1,000 from the General Insurance Account to the Library Expense Account; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Mr. Heller moved to approve the Municipal Relief Transfer Request from the Selectmen transferring a total of \$13,000 to Legal Services Account (\$8,000 from Municipal Fuel; \$2,000 from General Insurance; and \$3,000 from Consultant); Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Mr. Heller moved to approve the request for \$1,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Legal Services Account; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

It was agreed that Mr. Heller would attend the June 26, 2012 Advisory Committee meeting where the Committee would review these transfers.

4. NOI – SAW MILL POND DAM PROJECT

Two members of the Conservation Commission attended the Board’s June 19th meeting stating the need to hold a Public Hearing prior for a Notice of Intent (NOI) before the Highway Department can proceed with the agreed-upon work. Confirmation has been received from the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) that this is action must be taken.

There was still the question of whether or not all of this work MUST be done now that we've moved on to the next phase. The contract for Phase II is also requesting on the Town's behalf to skip Phase II and proceed directly to the design phase. Mr. Thomo and Mr. Chaffee both spoke with a representative of the ODS and both came away from the meeting with the belief that this work must be completed. Ms. Neylon pointed out the May 2013 deadline and noted that, if the work is not done this summer or fall by the Highway Department, they may be too busy to do the work and, to meet the deadline; an outside contractor would have to be hired at an additional cost.

It was agreed that only the ODS can clarify the matter so Mr. Comtois will send them an e-mail requesting clarification.

5. **REQUESTS TO CARRY OVER VACATION TIME THROUGH END OF NEXT QUARTER**

A request was received from EMS Chief to allow EMS Paramedic to carry over five vacation days into the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013; Mr. Heller so moved to allow; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

6. **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Comtois entertained a motion to ratify the signing of the mutual aid agreement for public works signed at the June 19th meeting; Mr. Heller so moved; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

7. **SIGN INSURANCE RENEWAL DOCUMENTS FOR FY 2013**

Mr. Comtois entertained a motion to ratify the signing of the insurance renewal documents signed at the June 19th meeting; Mr. Heller so moved; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

8. **SIGN CEMETERY DEED: LOT 293B MAIN SECTION (EATON)**

No deed was received so this was passed over.

At 7:02 pm, Chairman Comtois declared recess until Mr. Faugno arrived; at 7:09 pm Mr. Comtois declared the meeting back in session.

9. **7:30 PM SCHOOL COMMITTEE – HEALTH INSURANCE – DONALD FAUGNO**

Mr. Donald Faugno, Chair of the Brookfield School Committee, attended the meeting to discuss the health insurance "Memorandum of Agreement Between Brookfield Educational Support Professional Association And The Brookfield School Committee". This document defines that plan design changes reflected on

Appendix A would be implemented and incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement and shall only be effective if all town unions ratify the agreements with the plan design. This document had been forwarded to the School Committee by the Selectmen as a result of an earlier meeting with the request that they, the School Committee, sign it.

Mr. Faugno pointed out that the Selectmen, through the Insurance Advisory Committee, had reached an agreement with all municipal employees regarding changes to the health insurance policy. These changes included increased co-pay but resulted in a decreased premium by both the employees and the Town. Representing the School Committee, Mr. Faugno asked if the Selectmen intended to have the same language in the above subject agreement included in the Police Union Contract as would be included in the School unions' contracts.

It was pointed out that there is currently no language in either of the two school unions contracts or the police union contract relative to co-pays, etc.

The Agreement indicated a two year agreement but the Selectboard only wanted to agree to one year. Mr. Comtois and Mr. Thomo were in favor of a one-year agreement but Mr. Heller for a two year. Mr. Thomo moved to not sign the agreement because it slated two years and the Selectmen would only agree to one year; Mr. Comtois seconded; so voted with Mr. Heller voting no.

Mr. Comtois said that he felt the insurance design plan co-pay information did not need to be included in any of the union contracts.

10. 7:35 PM REQUEST FROM MFPC RE: FUNDING – DONALD FAUGNO

Mr. Faugno, as a member of the Municipal Facilities Planning Committee (MFPC) attended to give the Board a review of their progress and to ask the Board for \$5,000 to be designated for their use. They need an architect and a cost estimator to review the options and design changes that the MFPC has come up with. He said that some of the changes are due to changes in State laws since the last presentation to the voters. The \$5,000 would cover the architect and cost estimator attending at meeting of the MFPC and their research.

Mr. Heller moved to designate \$5,000 from the Town Hall Improvement Account to fund the MFPC in the development of a plan (Town Hall and Police Station) to bring before the Town; Mr. Comtois seconded for discussion. Following the discussion, the Mr. Comtois and Mr. Heller voted aye, Mr. Thomo voted nay, so voted.

The next meeting of the MFPC will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 9th in the kitchen of the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:40 pm, Mr. Thomo moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Heller seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Approved: July 24, 2012