

**Town of Brookfield
Selectmen's Meeting
Town Hall, Banquet Room
Tuesday, July 10, 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: Sharon Mahoney
Press: Jennifer Grybowski, Karen Trainor
Public: Barbara Wilson, John David Holdcraft, Patricia White

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Mr. Heller moved to approve and/or ratify the Warrants as listed in the agenda; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

RATIFY PREPAID WARRANT for 6/07/12: \$243.96
RATIFY PAYROLL WARRANT for 6/12/12: \$180,615.23
RATIFY EXPENSE WARRANT: \$102,780.66; Wire Transfer: \$12.82; Prepaid Warrant: \$180.83 all for 6/19/12
RATIFY PAYROLL WARRANT for 6/26/12: \$390,489.12
RATIFY PREPAID WARRANTS for 6/28/12: \$90,430.50 and \$111.00
RATIFY EXPENSE WARRANT for 6/30/12 – 7/2/12: \$37,463.96 and MV Excise & Trailer Refunds for 2007: \$1,485.21; 2012 for \$634.97 and \$580.31 and Real Estate Tax Refunds: 2011 for \$537.34; 2012 for \$1,311.07; 2006 for \$10.31; 2012 for \$484.00
RATIFY EXPENSE WARRANT for 7/3/12: \$182,397.56
APPROVE PAYROLL WARRANT for 7/10/12: \$113,833.62

APPROVAL OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:

The Selectmen's minutes for June 19, 26 and 29 were passed over.

MONTHLY REPORTS & MINUTES OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

Mr. Heller moved to acknowledge receipt of the below-listed monthly reports and minutes; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Town Administrator Study Committee: 6/5/12, 5/15/12
Capital Improvement Planning Committee: 5/3/12
Municipal Facilities Planning Committee: 5/31/12
EMS: June 2012 Fire: June 2012
Municipal Custodian: June 2012
Advisory Committee: 2/9/12; 3/8/12; 3/15/12; 3/22/12; 3/29/12; 4/12/12; 4/26/12; 5/3/12;
5/17/12
Historical Commission: 4/12/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Comtois read aloud the announcements which the schedule for the Concerts on the Common, the Farmer's Markets, and a request for the Food Pantry.

Public Access Period:

John David Holdcraft: Mr. Holdcraft spoke on several matters and one was his claim that the Cable Access Committee was only airing a small percentage of the Selectmen's meeting;

Agenda: Note the order listed below is the order of the agenda as posted, and may not be the order taken during the actual meeting. In fact, several items were taken out of order so that they could be addressed by the full Board and before Mr. Heller left to represent the Selectmen at a QQLA meeting.

1. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS (PLANNING BOARD CLERK, CIPC, SOURCE WATER PROTECTION, ZBA, LOCAL CABLE ACCESS, OTHERS)

The receipt of the resignation of Ms. Carrie Worthington as secretary of the Planning Board was acknowledged.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC):

Mr. Thomo moved to appoint Mr. Heller as the Selectmen's representative to the CIPC; Mr. Comtois seconded; so voted. Note that Mr. Thomo said that he thought that he could take over this responsibility later on.

Mr. Heller moved to appoint Mr. Peter S. O'Connell to an at-large position on the CIPC; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Local Public Access Committee:

Mr. Heller moved to appoint Lindsay Holm to the Local Public Access Committee for a two year term; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

Full-Time Police Officers:

Mr. Heller moved to appoint and Mr. Thomo seconded, the appointments of Steven Pariseau, Jason White and Sean Moreno for a one year term on the Police Department as full-time officers retroactive from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2013; so voted.

2. RHE COOP CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM SCANLAN & REQUIREMENT FOR A BOND

Mr. Heller noted that the Board of Directors for the RHE COOP (formerly CIC) grant had met last Tuesday, drafting procedures for all member towns to follow. In the matter of the contract with Mr. Scanlan, which the Board had voted to sign on June 19th, Counsel said it was okay to remove the liabilities that Counsel had

inserted. Mr. Heller moved to sign the revised contract; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

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

Mr. Heller moved to approve and sign the Cemetery Deed #297 for Kermit and Jean Eaton now that the deed was signed by both the Town Clerk and the Cemetery Commissioners; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

4. MUNICIPAL RELIEF TRANSFERS (TREASURER)

The following Municipal Relief Transfers were approved by the Selectmen; all with motions by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Thomo.

Treasurer:	\$1,327.65	to Medicare from Planning Board Clerk Salary Account
	\$3,500.00	to Group Health from Town Clerk – Assistant Clerk Wages Account
	\$700.00	to Treasurer’s Expense from Election & Registration Wages Account
Highway:	\$1,195.00	to Municipal Gas from Highway Operator Salary Account
Selectmen:	\$400.00	to Street Lights from Physical Exam Account
Board of Health:	\$700.00	to Board of Health Expense Account from Board of Health/Transfer Station Expense Account

5. QUABOAG RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION (SET TOWN MEETING DATE?, ETC.)

Mr. Comtois reviewed a meeting that he called and was held on Monday, July 9th at the MassDOT offices in Worcester with officials of MassDOT and Mr. James Correia and Ms. Patricia White owners of White’s Landing.

During this meeting the State offered to just reconstruct the bridge but this would only last for a maximum of 25 years; they called this a “super structure”. MassDOT also agreed to remove the island in front of White’s Landing which could free up some parking and to replace the proposed asphalt areas on their property with loose stone gravel and this area would include a boat access. There is also the possibility of removing the sidewalk on the west side of the bridge.

The minimum life of the new bridge is 75 years while the maximum life of the “super structure” is only 25. As part of the new bridge project, the sight line would be mitigated. Mr. Comtois said he was in favor of the new construction versus the super structure project. Mr. Thomo agreed and stated safety reasons. Mr. Heller said he had made a list of pro’s and con’s for the super structure (reconstruction) including:

Con's:

- The super structure will not change the load bearing capacity of the bridge so the weight limits will not change;
- Water flow will not be increased under the bridge;
- Vertical alignments will not be repaired;
- Width will not be changed;
- Impact on abutters during the super structure will be the same as during bridge reconstruction;

Pros's:

- Minimal change in overall appearance;
- Make the owners of White's Landing happy.

Mr. Heller moved to set the date of Friday, September 7th as the date for the Special Town Meeting, to begin at 7:00 pm; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted. It is the intent to hold his meeting at the Elementary School. Mr. Comtois asked that all departments be notified of this meeting date as it was his intent that this meeting will include articles normally at the fall Special Town Meeting. No deadline for submission of articles for this meeting was set at this time.

Mr. Heller moved to hold the informational meeting for Tuesday, August 28th at 6:30 in the Banquet Hall of the Town Hall; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted.

6. REQUESTS TO CARRY OVER VACATION TIME

Mr. Thomo moved, Mr. Comtois seconded, to authorize Ms. Holly Chisholm and Ms. Nancy Lee Finney to carry over their remaining Fiscal Year 2012 vacation time through the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2013; so voted. The Chairman asked that a memo be sent to all employees requesting that they make a point of using up as much of their vacation time as possible during the current fiscal year and try to avoid carrying over vacation time.

7. NOI – SAW MILL POND DAM PROJECT

This was passed over as there was nothing new to discuss. Mr. Thomo will make contact with the Office of Dam Safety to determine if the work that the Highway was going to do at the site is needed or if it can be skipped.

8. APPROVE CONTRACT – CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS GRANT (GATE PROJECT)

Mr. Heller stated that the proposed contract with Martha Lyon for her administrative services relative to the completion of the masonry work on the Cemetery gate has been returned from Town Counsel with a series of additional insurance items added. Neither the Cemetery Commissioners nor Ms. Lyon want to sign the contract with the additional items and these items would add an additional \$200 to her contract price.

Mr. Heller moved to approve and that the Board should sign the contract without the insurance item, pending approval of Town Counsel; Mr. Thomo seconded; so voted. Mr. Heller will contact Town Counsel.

9. LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL – JEPPSON BEACH

Mr. Comtois entertained a motion to renew the contract for use of Jeppson Beach at South Pond with the Commonwealth for the next five years; Mr. Thomo so moved; Mr. Comtois seconded; so voted.

10. FILED @ REGISTRY OF DEEDS: AUL FOR BROWNFIELD/MILL STATION PARK

Mr. Comtois announced that the Town had met the June 30th deadline and the Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) was filed at the Registry of Deeds. A copy is also on the Town's website if anyone wants to view it. This document outlines future limitations on the Brownfield project now known as Mill Station Park and is on Mill Street across from the Highway Barn. The property is the site of the former Brookfield Mill which burned to the ground about 1990 or 2000 and was later taken by the Town.

Correspondence:

11. THANK YOU FROM NO. BROOKFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH TO BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY

A thank you note was received from the North Brookfield Board of Health and read by Chairman Comtois thanking the Brookfield Highway for use of certain equipment and the services of Jonathon Bemis in a recent time of North Brookfield's need. A copy will go to the Highway, in the Superintendent's file and in Mr. Bemis' file.

12. THANK YOU NOTE FROM JIM ALLEN RE: ANNUAL TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

Chairman Comtois read aloud a thank you note from Mr. James W. Allen, former Selectman where he thanked the Board for the honor of dedicating the 2012 Annual Town Report to him. He said it was something that he would have voted against, if given the chance, as there are "others far more worthy" in his opinion.

13. LETTER RE SECTION 73 BUDGET RESOLUTION – VOCATIONAL TUITIONS (FROM STURBRIDGE ADMINISTRATOR)

The Selectmen received a letter from the Administrator of the Town of Sturbridge urging them to write to the Governor in support Sturbridge's position on a budget resolution relative to vocational tuition. The Board took no action.

Other:

14. ISO: NOTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION OF BCEGS CLASSIFICATION

The Board received a letter from ISO, a company that regulates insurance rates, indicating that because the Town doesn't include "training" in the budget line items for various inspectors, they were going to increase the insurance rates in the community for all new construction. Chairman Comtois referred to a follow-up e-mail from Jeffrey Taylor, Building Inspector that indicated the ISO is very powerful and uses things like this (training) as an excuse to increase rates and that arguing with the ISO was a losing battle. Brookfield's Building Inspector has the necessary training and certification but because he gets it through the Towns of Leicester and West Brookfield it somehow doesn't count for Brookfield!

Other:

Although Ms. Patricia White was not present for the Public Access part of the meeting or the agenda item for discussion of the Quaboag River Bridge, she asked to speak at the conclusion of the meeting. Chairman Comtois moved to allow her to speak and received no second. He used his authority as Chair to allow her to speak. Ms. White read the following letter into the record but would not accept any comments from the Board. (*Note: The letter below is copied as presented.*)

"July 10, 2012
Board of Selectmen
Town of Brookfield
Brookfield, MA

This letter is being submitted to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Brookfield by the owners and operators of White's Landing located at 7 Fiskdale Road in Brookfield, MA in response to a meeting held yesterday July 9, @ 9:00 am in the MASSDOT offices in Worcester, MA.

In response to the Board of Selectmen's decision to move forward again with the proposed plan previously submitted to the Town by MASSDOT to re-construct 1200 ft of roadway along with the re-construction of the Quaboag River Bridge, despite the defeat at the Annual Town Meeting held on June 8th, we, the owners and operators of White's Landing hereby state to the Board of Selectmen, that:

- We are opposed to the Selectmen's plan to the taking of our land by eminent domain.
- We are opposed to the Selectmen's plan to the alteration of our private land.
- We are opposed to the Selectmen's plan to reconfigure our parking lot.
- We are opposed to the Selectmen's plan to re-locate our entrances.

-We are opposed to the Selectmen's plan to the filling of our land and/or parking lot to increase grade.

We are in favor of one of four options presented at Monday's meeting by MASSDOT officials to the Selectmen of the Town Brookfield for full replacement of the entire super structure of the Quaboag River Bridge. This option satisfies the need to correct the deficiencies of the river bridge, while imposing far less destruction and negative impact to the flood plain, the wetlands, wildlife habitat area, local business, and boater access to the water, while maintaining the esthetic essence and historic value of this unique and precious Quaboag River area appreciated by locals and awed by tourists.

As owners and operators of this business for over ten years existing at this location we have superior practical and first hand knowledge of the functional aspect of our land in relation to the operation of our business. The safest and most efficient means for all vehicles entering our property is its current and existing layout with regard to entering and exiting the property, and the parking of vehicles, including cars, busses, trucks, and trailers. This parking layout is original by design because it offers the most safety to vehicles entering, vehicles existing, and to the flow of traffic along RT 148.

Now, having options on the table as stated from MASSDOT officials, we encourage and support the right to discussion of options between the town's people and the Board of Selectmen in order to remedy the deficient condition of the Quaboag River Bridge, rather than, the imposition of a plan so severe that it will require an act of the Legislature due to its impact to protected wildlife habitat area, and one, that takes a citizen's private land by eminent domain, alters it, and leaves them less than whole.

Respectfully submitted,
James T. Correia
Anna Patricia White
White's Landing
7 Fiskdale Road
Brookfield, MA 01506"

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:16 pm, Mr. Thomo moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Comtois seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Approved: August 7, 2012