

BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 11, 2015 - FINAL

Members Present: Bernardine Hoard, Dot Maggio, Stanley Noga, Mike O'Donnell, Bruce Mello

Others Present: Archie Clark, Mark Bills, Debbie Polocz, Sherry Greene, Barbara Bourne

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Guy Tanza, Town Clerk.

ELECT SELECTBOARD CHAIR

Bernardine Hoard was nominated for Board Chair by Bruce Mello. There were no other nominations. Bernardine was elected as Chair unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE SELECTBOARD RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Board reviewed the Selectboard Rules of Procedure. A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to approve the Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Stanley Noga offered an amendment to the motion, in order to add procedures regarding motions for additions, deletions, and amending the order of the agenda, further noting that a change to the agenda should be the first order of business in a meeting. The amendment to the motion was seconded by Mike O'Donnell. After discussion and further review of the Rules of Procedure, the amendment was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to approve the Selectboard Rules of Procedure. The motion was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

February 25, 2015: A motion was made by Bruce Mello to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike O'Donnell. The motion carried with four in favor and Stanley Noga abstaining as he was not present for the entire meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Unscheduled Members of the Public:

Barbara Bourne was present to ask the Board to consider having the town attorney attend the Greer Road hearing when it's rescheduled, and to also have him review the documents leading up to the hearing. The Board noted that the purpose of the hearing is to hear from both sides, noting that the attorney would be utilized during the decision making process. Barbara suggested that if the other parties are involving attorneys, the town may want to utilize an attorney as well. Discussion ensued. Sherry Greene noted she felt that it made sense to wait to utilize the attorney, so as to not incur the costs twice.

REORGANIZATION AND APPOINTMENT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Elect Vice Chair: Dot Maggio was nominated by Stanley Noga. Mike O'Donnell was nominated by Bruce Mello. Mike O'Donnell declined. Dot Maggio was elected as Vice-Chair unanimously.

Review/Approve Conflict of Interest Policy: The Board reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy. A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy. The motion was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Recording Clerk of Board: Shannon Meckle was nominated as Recording Clerk by Mike O'Donnell. There were no other nominations. Shannon Meckle was appointed as Recording Clerk unanimously.

Set Time and Place for Selectboard Meetings: A motion was made by Bernardine Hoard to move the meetings to the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm at the Brookline Town Offices. The motion was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

Establish Official Newspaper for Posting of Meetings/Hearings: A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to use the Brattleboro Reformer as the official newspaper. The motion was seconded by Dot Maggio. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Road Commissioner: A nomination was made by Bruce Mello to appoint Archie Clark as Road Commissioner. Archie noted he would accept the nomination, but voiced his concern that as a business owner, he would not want to lose the opportunity to bid on future projects. He stated that he would pass those projects off to Mark or the Board and only participate as a bidder; and that he was concerned about the appearance of unfair advantage. The consensus of the Board was that there were enough checks and balances that there would not be conflict issues. He noted that he'd like to discuss upcoming State grants and documents, and also would like to work on the Wellman Bridge. The motion to appoint Archie Clark as Road Commissioner was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Highway Foreman: Mike O'Donnell nominated Mark Bills as Highway Foreman. There were no other nominations. He was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Representatives to Windham Regional Commission: Bernardine Hoard nominated Cynthia Nau and Guy Tanza as Representatives to Windham Regional Commission. There were no other nominations. They were appointed unanimously.

Appoint Emergency Management Director: Bernardine Hoard nominated Mike O'Donnell. There were no other nominations. He was appointed unanimously.

Appoint 911 Coordinator: Bernardine Hoard nominated Guy Tanza as 911 Coordinator. There were no other nominations. Discussion ensued regarding an erroneous house number that will need addressing. Guy Tanza was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Pound Keeper: Dot Maggio nominated Windham County Humane Society as Pound Keeper. There were no other nominations. Windham County Humane Society was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Animal Control Officer: Dot Maggio nominated Nancy Caldwell as Animal Control Officer. There were no other nominations. Nancy Caldwell was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Members of the Historical Society: Dot Maggio nominated Jack Greene, Cynthia Nau and Doug Wellman as members of the Historical Society. There were no other nominations. The three were appointed unanimously.

Appoint Representatives to Windham Solid Waste Management District: Bernardine Hoard nominated Stanley Noga as WSWMD Representative. There were no other nominations. He was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Members to Brookline Planning Commission: Bernardine Hoard nominated Charlie Ezequelle to continue on the Planning Commission. There were no other nominations. He was appointed unanimously.

Appoint Representative to Rescue, Inc.: There were no nominations. This position will be added to the vacancy list.

Appoint Representative to Vermont State Police Advisory Board: A motion was made by Dot Maggio and seconded by Stanley Noga to remove the appointment from the list. The motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Health Officer: Stanley Noga nominated Dot Maggio as Assistant Health Officer. There were no other nominations. Dot was appointed unanimously.

Town Service Officer: Mike O'Donnell nominated Cynthia Nau as Town Service Officer. There were no other nominations. Cynthia was appointed unanimously.

Surveyor of Wood & Lumber: Mike O'Donnell nominated Lester Rink as Surveyor of Wood and Lumber. There were no other nominations. Lester was appointed unanimously.

Town Tree Warden: Dot Maggio nominated Mark Bills as Town Tree Warden. There were no other nominations. Mark Bills was appointed unanimously.

Forest Fire Warden: Mike O'Donnell nominated Lester Rink as Forest Fire Warden and Mike Winot as Deputy Forest Fire Warden. There were no other nominations. Both were appointed unanimously.

Brookline Church Committee: Bernardine Hoard nominated Stan Noga, Bruce Mello, Peter Meyer, Helen Samuels, Kerry Bourne, and Cynthia Nau to continue serving on the Brookline Church Committee. There were no other nominations. They were appointed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

New Date for Greer Road Hearing: Bernardine noted that they needed to set a new date for the hearing, at least 30 days out. A motion was made by Bernardine Hoard to hold a hearing on April 18, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of hearing from the public regarding Greer Road. Stanley Noga seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Bernardine will take care of the notice requirements.

Town Meeting Recap: Mike noted that the town meeting went well except for the school part and thought that it was misleading to the public. Discussion ensued.

Guy Tanza thanked the Church Committee for serving the food at Town Meeting, noting it was a good community effort. Stanley noted that \$290.06 was raised and thanked the area businesses and individuals for their donations.

Bruce Mello expressed his disappointment with the number of people present at Town Meeting. Stanley Noga noted that the public asked good questions,

It was noted that no media coverage was present

The Board felt that with respect to the church and the school, the public seemed to be telling the Board that town trusted the board to do the right thing.

Flood Plain Administrator: Discussion ensued regarding the appointment of a Flood Plain Administrator. Sherry Greene stated that depending on what the duties are, she might consider the position. Stanley noted that if Sherry doesn't want to do it, he might consider it. Guy will send Windham Regional Commission an email asking for more information and forward it to Sherry and Stanley.

NEW BUSINESS

Ash Bore Workshop – Mark Bills noted he'd like to attend. Bruce stated he might attend. The workshop will be held on March 18, from 9:00 - Noon at the NewBrook Fire Station.

School: Discussion ensued regarding the School process and the legislature. Stanley reported that he had received a call from Carolyn Partridge letting him know that she'd spoken to the various people in the legislature regarding the situation with the grant money, and wanted to make it known that she would be happy to help the town in any way she can. The School Board will meet on March 12. Further discussion will be on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting.

Goals for the New Year:

Archie noted that he'd like to meet with Mark Bills to get up to speed and that Marc Pickering from VTrans will be meeting with towns. Archie stated that he was hopeful to meet with him before the next meeting. He noted he'd also like to have some grant applications ready for the board's review and approval for the next meeting. Archie also asked for an update on Wellman Bridge. Mike O'Donnell will contact Jim Rogers for the information he has on the project.

Dot Maggio noted that the Board wanted to consider two passes of mowing instead of one, and also paving priorities, as well as tree encroachment.

Bruce Mello asked whether Nancy had been compensated for her time as Animal Control Officer. Guy noted that a figure had never been arrived at, but that the lowest pay is \$12.25 per hour and noted that it would be a way of thanking her for the time and effort she put in. Bruce Mello made a motion to pay Nancy Caldwell \$13.00 per hour for the nine hours she spent. The motion was seconded by Dot Maggio. The motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Mello noted that the Church has not received the \$5,000 Historic Preservation Trust, and asked Stanley about it. Stanley noted it was left over money from a grant for the round school house. Stanley gave an overview of the process. The Town has to file another application in order to receive the \$5,000. The Committee left it in the hands of the historical society whether they want to use it or not. Bruce Mello advocated for the Historical Society working towards getting the money.

Guy asked for permission to speak with Ian Sullivan to discuss an upcoming tax appeal. A motion was made by Stanley Noga to authorize Guy Tanza to meet with Ian Sullivan or Laurie Rowell regarding the appeal. The motion was seconded by Mike O'Donnell. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- VTrans - Financial Plan and Road and Bridge Standards
- Municipal Highway Grant Application
- VLCT News
- State of Vermont Notice to Property Inspectors
- VLCT Workshop Notice – Construction Contracts

PAY ORDERS

The pay orders were reviewed.

A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to authorize Bernardine Hoard to sign Payroll Warrants when there is no meeting. The motion was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bernardine Hoard to approve Payroll Warrant No. 35 in the amount of \$1,231.63. The motion was seconded by Mike O'Donnell. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bernardine Hoard to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No 34 in the amount of \$213,714.49. The motion was seconded by Stanley Noga. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA

The Board discussed the next meeting's agenda. Members will email Bernardine with any additions.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mike O'Donnell to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dot Maggio. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Meckle