BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2021

PRESENT: Mrs. Diane Vayda; Chairman, Mr. David J. Pierce, Vice-Chairman, and Roland Sickenberger, Clerk
ATTENDEES: See attached

Reconvened in Open Session at 6:10 PM (Executive Session Minutes under separate cover)

MR. & MRS. ANTHONY SIMMONEAU – 11 BEACH DRIVE

Mr. & Mrs. Simmoneau contacted the Board regarding several concerns. The first being water runoff on their property (11 Beach Drive – Lot 66) and the other; their experience with the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Simmoneau provided handouts for the Board that contained pictures and documentation which appears to support their claim that they have tried, albeit unsuccessfully to address their issues in the proper venue. According to Mrs. Simmoneau, the water run-off issue is originating from 24-26 Hillside Drive and the newly installed driveway. The Simmoneau's spoke with the Conservation Commission several times and attended several meetings to discuss this matter further. Former Conservation Commission member, David Mazzaresse performed a site inspection on July 7, 2021 and documented his findings. Granted, this summer has been wetter than normal, which exacerbated the situation. Those findings were shared with the members of the Commission as well as notifying the property owner with a request to attend an upcoming meeting. The interaction by and between the Simmoneau's and the members of the Commission were less than productive and they (Simmoneau) were less than satisfied with the manner in which the town, specifically the Commission handled the situation. They provided a copy of an email from Mass DEP stating that they (ConCom) do have jurisdiction over the matter at this point, in spite of what certain members claimed at the last meeting in September. They (Simmoneau) also stated the inaccuracies in required town documents are not consistent leading to unnecessary confusion. They are looking for help and guidance. Mr. Simmoneau stated that the town was asleep when the building permit for this property was issued. The Board was sympathetic to their problems and will look into the matter to see if this can be brought to a resolution.

NORTHEAST IT – IT INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

The Board had an opportunity to review the IT Assessment that was performed by NEIT. It was a lengthy and in-depth review of the town's IT infrastructure strengths and weaknesses. This information will go into the grant application that will be submitted under the Community Compact Grant Application. If successful, it will yield approximately $50K toward the much needed upgrades.

PLANNING BOARD RESIGNATION

The Board received a letter of resignation from Daniel Bidga from his position on the Planning Board. He wished the town continued success. A motion was made by Mr. Pierce to accept his resignation and was seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous. The office will notify the Planning Board of the vacancy and post the vacancy on the town's website until October 22, 2021.

MINUTES - TABLED

WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 22 P7 and 22 W7 dated October 7, 2021 in the amount of $84,946.15 and $180,366.98 respectively made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice from Ms. Betty DiMaio that she will be retiring from her position as Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors effective April 1, 2022. She is requesting an article be placed on the warrant at the STM for her payout of unused sick time in the amount of $12,276. – ***Noted. The Board will discuss on how to handle ahead of the STM.***
2. Chief O'Donnell forwarded a request from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart K of C Council 11080 requesting permission to hold their annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit Persons with Developmental Disabilities. This would take place on October 9th & 10th from 9 AM to 12 Noon at the intersection of Rte. 9 and Cottage/Central Streets. Chief O'Donnell has no issues or concerns with this request. – ***There was no opposition to this request.***
3. The office received notice from Fiona Andrews, Executive Director at the WB Housing Authority that Ms. Marta Davis resigned as Chair of the Board of Directors. – ***The office will post this opening until October 22, 2021 and will review any interested applicants at that time for appointment.***
4. The office received notice from Highway Superintendent, James Daley that he has received several applications for the open highway position. Interviews have started and Mr. Daley is hopeful to have a candidate for consideration before the Board at our next regular meeting. - ***Noted***
5. As a follow up to the concerns expressed by a resident on Foster Hill Road regarding speeding vehicles, Highway Superintendent, James Daley recommended a "Thickly Settled" sign be erected which can now be posted at 25 MPH. Chief O'Donnell is in agreement with Mr. Daley's recommendation. – ***The Board was in favor of Mr. Daley's recommendation. The office will advise.***
6. Tuesday, November 16th has been tentatively earmarked for a STM. An email was sent out informing all departments of the possible meeting. In the email, it is noted that this meeting should be used for strictly housekeeping items and/or unanticipated matters or possible by-law amendments. – ***This date may be changed due to scheduling conflicts. More information to follow.***
7. The office received a request for a Special Use Permit(s) for Wickaboag Pond from Goldfishan, LLC for ***May 22, 2022*** and ***June 11, 2022*** and the Last Cast Anglers for ***September 24, 2022***. – ***Noted. With no objection from the Board, all three dates were approved.***
8. The Historical Commission is proposing a Demolition Delay By-law which they are hoping to present to the voters at the STM. A copy is in your book for review. If it going to be a General By-law, then the BOS would hold a public hearing and if it is to fall under zoning, then the Planning Board would hold the hearing. A tentative Public Hearing with Planning is scheduled for Monday, November 1st. – ***The Board has requested a discussion with the Planning Board on the matter.***

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

NEXT MEETING DATES: October 19, 2021 – 6 PM Regular Session

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 7:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Roland Sickenberger, Clerk

11-2-21
Date Approved