BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2022

PRESENT: Mrs. Diane Vayda; Chairman, Mr. David Pierce; Vice-Chairman and Roland Sickenberger, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Ian McElwee, Rebecca Marques (National Grid) Barbara Porter, Marybeth Czaja, David Brown and Dick Rossman

Called meeting to Order at 6:00PM

6:10 PM – PUBLIC HEARIG – VERIZON NEW ENGLAND – Petition No. 4AM0MQ0K

Verizon New England has petitioned the Board of Selectmen to install one (1) solely owned pole (number T.1540S) on the north side of North Main Street at a point approximately two hundred eighty-six (286) feet westerly from the center line of Hunt Road. Abutter notifications were made in accordance with the law, however there were no abutters in attendance this evening. After a review and with no opposition, the following motion was made:

Motion to grant the petition by Verizon New England as presented made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Motion to close the public hearing for Verizon New England made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 6:14 PM

6:15 PM – PUBLIC HEARING - NATIONAL GRID – Petition No. 30443624

National Grid has petitioned the Board of Selectmen to install one (1) solely owned midspan pole (P10-2) on New Braintree Road for the purpose of new construction of a single-family dwelling located at 53 New Braintree Road. Rebecca Marques from National Grid was in attendance this evening. Abutter notifications were made in accordance with the law, however there were no abutters in attendance this evening. After a review and with no opposition, the following motion was made:

Motion to grant the petition by National Grid as presented made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Motion to close the public hearing for National Grid made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 6:20 PM.

IAN MCELWEE – CMRPC – UPDATE ON LOCAL RAPID RECOVERY PLAN (LLRP) AND GREEN COMMUNITIES

Mr. McElwee addressed the Board this evening in order to provide an update on both the LLRP and Green Communities Program. First, the LLRP was a year-long process with the purpose being to assist the downtown area business impacted by COVID-19. The town has already undertaken some of the steps on our own. Currently, the Planning Board, with the assistance of CMRPC, is working on a comprehensive re-write of the town's zoning by-laws. Mr. McElwee suggested that some additional steps would be to create an economic development committee in order to devise a strategic plan, perhaps engaging with local business groups. Public parking was also one area of interest from the survey that went out. Mr.

McElwee's next step is to speak with the Planning Board once again. He will provide further updates to the Selectboard as the process moves along.

GREEN COMMUNITIES

With $7,784.25 in residual funds remaining from the original designation grant, Mr. McElwee is looking to expend the remaining funds on a project(s). As is the intent of the program, we are looking for projects with the greatest return on investment. There are several and Mr. McElwee will follow up on these. Also, he is aware that the town is not satisfied with Prism Energy, who not only did the initial building assessments, but subcontracted the work out to third parties for the work done under the designation grant. However, the town will need to expend the remaining funds with the current contracted vendor (Prism Energy) then once it is closed out, we can switch. The next grant round to apply will be in the fall. Lastly, the town can potentially receive up to $7,500 for a hybrid cruiser.

LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (LWPA)

LWPA members; Marybeth Czaja, along with Dave Brown and Barbara Portal, were in attendance this evening to discuss the formation of the Lake Committee. The Board originally had the article for the creation of such on the STM Warrant scheduled for February 8th, however they asked that we remove it at this time for further consideration. They would like to make sure that if indeed the town is going to move forward with such a formation, that it be well thought out prior to putting it before the voters. The LWPA's Executive Board is comprised of fourteen (14) members and each has their duties that they perform. Ms. Czaja's concern is that if the Executive Board delegates a particular duty, then will that person be indemnified. Additional clarification on the scope and responsibilities is needed. Additional discussion will take place on the matter.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. Rossman was in attendance this evening as a follow up to check the status of moving forward with repairs to the building. A significant area of concern is the paint that is needed, especially on the east side of the building. He further reminded the Board that in light of the signed Preservation Restriction, the proper person must be able to do the work. Mrs. Acerra will contact a contractor that does work on historic homes/buildings as a starting place.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of December 27, 2021 as written made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – (2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mrs. Vayda due to absence)
Motion to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2022 as written made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.
Motion to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2022 as written made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mrs. Vayda – (2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Sickenberger due to absence)

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to sign and approve Warrant No 22 P 15 and 22 W 15 dated January 27, 2022 in the amounts of $70,139.89 and $787,066.47 respectively made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

1. **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**
   The office received a request from the Advisory Committee to attend their next meeting scheduled for February 1st. In addition, they have asked that in a joint effort a letter be sent to each of the school committee members thanking them for their time as well as a request for insight as to their time and availability to serve our community. - ***Noted***
2. The office received a request from CMRPC to extend the agreement by and between the Town of West Brookfield and CMRPC for the zoning re-write grant. – ***Motion to approve the extension as requested made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.***
3. The office received notice from the Asparagus Festival Committee that they are planning on holding the festival on Saturday, May 21st. The festival runs from 10 am to 4 pm with vendors setting up beginning at 7 am. - ***Noted***

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 1, 2022 – 6:15 PM (Zoom-w/Advisory)
February 8, 2022 – 6:30 PM – STM to begin at 7 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Roland Sickenberger, Clerk

2/22/22
Date Approved