BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. David J. Pierce; Chairman, Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chair and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

ATTENDEES: Chief Lapierre, Melinda Czub, Lori Loughlin, Ron Garceau, Michael Audette, Dan McCall, Gary Simeone, Kevin Dorman, Bill Mansfield, Kelly Bakiri, Makayla Casey, Rachael May, and Brian

Called meeting to Order at 7:00 PM

FIRE CHIEF – DISCUSSION ON CONTRACT – TABLED

FIRE DEPARTMENT/ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chief Lapierre is in attendance this evening to advise the Board that the Town of Brimfield has a truck that is for sale. This truck is a 1996 Freightliner FL8 which is very similar to the defunct Engine 2. It is a bit out of scope for NFPA standards, however the cost is $25K and it would answer the problem at least in the short term. Co-Chair of Advisory, Ms. Loughlin stated that seeing the voters rejected this matter twice (ballot and town meeting) that she would suggest that the Board of Selectmen call for a Special Town Meeting as soon as legally possible with the understanding that the funds come from the Fire Truck Stabilization Account. With no objection from the Board, the following motion was made: ***Motion to schedule a Special Town Meeting as soon as possible with one Article (purchase of used fire truck) made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.***

WEST BROOKFIELD RESCUE SQUAD

Dan McCall, President of the WBRS was in attendance this evening to again discuss the need for a contract by and between the town and his agency. At a prior meeting, the Advisory Committee requested his financial statements, and he was not agreeable. He stated that he was not asking them to analyze their financial situation. This is because the WBRS is rendering a service to the town and feels the town should take some responsibility. Mr. McCall reiterated that they are currently ALS service since April. There was confusion with Baystate Hospital where they (WBRS) voluntarily surrendered their license until the paperwork was in order. Mr. Pierce asked that he provide a draft contract which is more in line with our town. Mr. McCall agreed.

CHIEF OF POLICE SEARCH COMMITTEE

With the impending official retirement of Chief O'Donnell in August, the Board discussed forming a Police Chief Search Committee. Currently, Sgt. Letendre is Acting Chief. All agreed that the committee should consist of 5 members. Mr. von Bleicken will serve as the representative to the Board of Selectmen and Chief Lapierre will also serve. Mr. Pierce will reach out to resident and retired MSP Officer, Mr. Brad Hibbard along with the Chief's from Brookfield and East Brookfield to gauge interest.

WATER DEPARTMENT – LELAND ROAD WELL PROJECT – STATUS UPDATE

In speaking with office staff in their office, the Water Department reported that McClure Engineering is still working on revised invoices. Also, it was determined that the water needs to remain off on the fountain as there is an issue with the float.

IT MANAGED SERVICES

After sending out three RFP's for Managed IT Services, Northeast IT was the only respondent. With no further objection and with the Board looking to move forward with this project, the following motion was made: ***Motion to approve and sign the contract for Northeast IT Services for Managed IT Services for FY 23, after a final vetting and signatures by legal counsel made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.***

ARPA FUNDS – ESSENTIAL WORKER PAY

There is continued discussion regarding this matter. Mr. Sickenberger was working with the Treasurer's Office and a revised spreadsheet was provided. The Asst. Treasurer stated that there are guidelines in which to pay out. This is an ongoing topic.

FY 23 APPOINTMENTS – TABLED

BOARD OF ASSESSORS – DISCUSSION ON FY 23 BUDGET

Mr. Dorman spoke on behalf of the Board this evening. He questioned the authority of the Advisory Committee. He stated that they (BOA) submitted their budget which was ultimately reduced by the AC, without their knowledge. Mr. Dorman's brother (Melvin) who is on the Board of Health stated that the same thing happened to their departmental budget, again with no knowledge. Mr. Dorman felt that they should have been notified as soon as possible to provide a rebuttal. Mr. Mansfield stated that the changes the AC made were made the day before the town meeting. He further stated that all boards committees should be working together. Ms. Loughlin stated that they (AC) asked questions, however, did not receive any answers, therefore they made decisions on their own.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 4, 2022, as written made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 17, 2022, as written made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Pierce due to absence
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 23, 2022, as written made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of June 15, 2022, and June 28, 2022, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Pierce – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Sickenberger due to absence

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The office received a letter of interest from David Brown expressing his interest in serving on the Capital Planning Committee – ***Tabled***

The office received the Project Eligibility Notification from MassDOT on the Resurfacing & Related Work on Rte. 9 (Phase III) - ***Noted***

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's 23 P#1, 23 W #1 and 23 W#1A dated July 12, 2022, in the amounts of $44,585.57, $367,845.00, and $219,087.72 respectively made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mansfield addressed the Board this evening to reassure them that to the best of his knowledge he is fully certified as an Assessor. His status recently came under question when the town received a letter from Mass DOR – Division of Local Services stating that he was not certified under the minimum requirements as set forth by MGL 59 § 2A (c).

COMMENTS & CONCERS

Mr. von Bleicken has asked that the Board work on leading the charge on communication. The Board was in full agreement that one needs to lead by example, and this is a great place to start.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 26, 2022 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

08/23/2022

Date Approved