BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. David Pierce; Chairman, Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman and Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Chief Richard Lapierre, Dave

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM (Notes were taken by Mr. von Bleicken in Mrs. Acerra's absence)

DAN McCALL – WB RESCUE SQUAD – TABLED

CHIEF LAPIERRE – FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS – MOVED TO LATER IN THE MEETING

TOWN MANAGER vs TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. von Bleicken did some research into both positions and determined that the names were interchangeable with no appreciable differences. Mr. Pierce suggested Town Administrator. Mr. Sickenberger suggested that a search committee be created. This will be on the board's next agenda.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Three residents have submitted their names for consideration for the newly formed Capital Planning Committee. Dave Brown, Kim Chambers and Heather Klein. With no objections the following motion was made:
Motion to appoint David Brown, Kim Chambers and Heather Klein to the Capital Planning Committee made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

While present this evening, Dave Brown asked for direction in terms of the committee's scope. The Capital Planning Committee (CPC) will focus on the town's needs only. The school is responsible for their own budgeting/planning. Chief Lapierre suggested that all department heads provide a list from each respective department. Mr. Brown asked about administrative support. Perhaps a volunteer would be willing to assist. At this point, Mr. Brown offered to be the facilitator vs the Chair. This will need to be discussed among a quorum of the group once sworn in and posted at a meeting. Mr. Pierce suggested that he speak with Mrs. Acerra for guidance.

MINUTES

Motion to accept the Minutes of July 18, 2022, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice from the ABCC (Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission) that Country Corner Citgo, Inc. D/B/A Country Corner was found to be in non-compliance with the M.G.L. Ch. 138, §34 – Sale or Delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one (21) years of age. Therefore, a hearing has been set for ***Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 2:00 PM - NOTED***

2. Prism Energy is expected to be on site in August to work on a lighting project at the town hall. This will expend the residual funds left in the Green Communities Designation Grant. - ***NOTED***

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No 23 P #2 and 23 W #2 dated July 28, 2022, in the amounts of $70,743.25 and $8840,571.23 respectively made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sickenberger, along with Town Accountant Donna Allard recently met with several applicants for the position of Town Treasurer. There is one candidate that he would like to make an offer to. All agreed.

Mr. von Bleicken mentioned that the committee was set to begin to seek applicants for Police Chief.

CHIEF LAPIERRE – DEPARTMENT PROMOTION

Tabled from earlier in the evening, Chief Lapierre introduced Josh Gagnon as the department's newest Lieutenant. He along with Ben Ash (at the meeting of July 12th) were promoted to the position. Mr. Pierce read aloud the proclamation as Lt. Gagnon was pinned. The Board along with Chief Lapierre congratulated him.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Pierce asked Chief Lapierre as to the status of the fire truck. Chief Lapierre stated that depending on the outcome of the Special Town Meeting, all is ready to move forward. Also, there is no new news on the grant currently.

Mr. Pierce also advised all in attendance that Mrs. Acerra had advised the board via email about two bond bills in the pipeline. One for $750K for the firetruck and the other was $1.5 million for the water project.

Mr. Pierce also advised all that Jim Daley is working on another street grant and a general discussion took place around the possibility of sharing a grant writer with a surrounding town, and the talk of a safety complex.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

08/09/2022
Date Approved