BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. David J. Pierce; Chairman, and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ABSENT: Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman
ATTENDEES: Denise & Mark Pontbriand, Chief Lapierre, Tom Ford, Dan McCall, Joe Borlikowski, Mary Beth Czaja, David Mazzaresse, and David Brown

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

WEST BROOKFIELD RESCUE SQUAD

As a follow up to a previous meeting, Mr. McCall was in attendance this evening and provided a draft of an Agreement to present to the Board for consideration. The proposal was drawn up by their attorney which also provides rates from surrounding towns. Mr. Pierce stated that the Board/Counsel would review the proposal and get back to them with any questions. Mr. McCall thanked the Board for their time.

TREASURER POSITION – TABLED

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

With the salary budget being supported at town meeting, the Board is eager to move forward with putting a search committee together. With no objections, the following motion was made ***Motion to form a 5-member Town Administrator Search Committee made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous***

GRANT COMMITTEE

This topic has recently been at the forefront for the need of a grant committee/writer. With no objections, the following motion was made: ***Motion to form a 3-member Grant Committee made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.***

LAKE WICKABOAG – CONCERNS OF LAKE SAFETY

Mr. & Mrs. Pontbriand addressed the Board this evening with concerns over lake safety. They stated that they have witnessed activities that are illegal and dangerous. The town currently does not have a Harbor Master. The Fire Department is actively raising funds to purchase a boat for the department and Police to use to monitor water activity. Tom Ford (Lake resident and Retired Police Chief from Sturbridge) stated that with the Police Reform Act, a Harbor Master has full police powers and therefore needs academy training. Mr. Mazzaresse stated that he would like to see a minimum number of hours dedicated by the police department for lake patrols. Mr. Pierce stated that this is a request that is not fiscally feasible at this point and time. Residents do have the right to contact the Environmental Police, should they feel their presence is needed. The town is working towards addressing this issue; however, training and funds are a factor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – ACTING CHIEF APPOINTMENT

Motion to extend the appointment of Sgt. Letendre as Acting Chief indefinitely until the position is filled made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Pierce – unanimous.

NEPBA LOCAL 83A & 83B - VOTE TO RATIFY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS – TABLED

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 26, 2022, as written made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received a letter of resignation from Matti Sjoblom from the Recreation Committee and from Roberto Mondragon from the Fire Department. - ***NOTED***
2. The office received an invitation from the Town of East Brookfield to participate in their 100th Birthday Anniversary. On September 17th beginning at 9:30 am they are having a parade (1.6 miles). If interested, you can either march in the parade or ride in a vehicle provided by our own town. - ***NOTED***
3. The office received a request from Rebekah Cornell for support to use DLTA funding from CMRPC towards a permitting booklet. – ***The Board was in full support.***

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's 23 P 3 and 23 W 3 dated August 11, 2022, in the amounts of $85,384.20 and $78,339.14 respectively made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will be scheduling a Department Head meeting in mid-September. More information to follow.

COMMENTS & CONCERS – NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 23, 2022 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Pierce – unanimous at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

8/23/22
Date Approved