BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ABSENT: Mr. David J. Pierce; Chairman
ATTENDEES: Lori Loughlin, Pam Griffing, Melinda Czub (John Madden via Zoom) Josh Gagnon, Mike Maciad (National Grid) Fire Chief Richard Lapierre and Phil Landine

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

CENTRAL NE EQUINE RESCUE

Central NE Equine Rescue has requested a General Permit for a fundraising event they are holding on October 15th from Noon to 4 PM. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to grant a General Permit to Central NE Equine Rescue as requested for Saturday, October 15th from Noon to 4 PM made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR – REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION

After a further review, a revised job description was provided to the Board by COA member Nancy Seremeth. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the revised Senior Center Job Description as presented made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

REVISED PERSONNEL BYLAW – TABLED

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2022, and September 13, 2022, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. Chief Lapierre has secured a grant from the Dept. of Homeland Security for the FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of $31,737.85 for the purpose of purchasing a compressor – ***Noted with thanks***
2. The office received notice that Eric Whittemore (Highway Department) submitted his resignation effective Friday, September 23, 2022. ***Noted and accepted with regret***

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No 23 P 6 and 23 W 6 dated September 22, 2022, in the amounts of $67,869.82 and $938,694.99 respectively made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. von Bleicken stated that to date, the Police Chief Search Committee has received 5 resumes' for the position. The cut off date for submission is October 7th.

Chief Lapierre asked the Board if they had any objections to him pursuing FEMA grants. That was previously being done by now retired Chief O'Donnell. They had no objections and thanked him for his efforts.

He also proposed a new fee schedule. This will be on an upcoming agenda to discuss further.

6:15 PM – NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON – POLE HEARING 122 SNOW ROAD

In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, a public hearing was held on the joint petition of National Grid/Verizon (#30584500) who is seeking to located poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining, and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

SNOW ROAD – National Grid and Verizon New England requests permission to install 1 JO Pole on Snow Road beginning at a point approximately 90' feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Snow Road and continuing approximately 150 feet in a southwest direction, installing a new Pole 1-1 to fee 122 Snow Road. 122 Snow Road is currently fed from a Right of Way and this request is being sought to improve safety for line workers.

Josh Gagnon, who resides at 122 Snow Road was in attendance and does not have any objection to the petition. Daniel Foty, who resides at 113 Snow Road was not able to attend this evening however asked that it be confirmed that there will not be any poles/wires on 113 Snow Road. Mr. Maciad (NatGrid) confirmed that 113 Snow Road will not be affected. With no objection or any further comments from abutters, the following motion was made: ***Motion to approve the request by National Grid/Verizon to install one JO Pole as requested and presented made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.***

ADVISORY COMMITTEE – DISCUSSION RE: FY 23 BUDGET/ARPA FUNDS/OPEN POSITIONS/FIRE DEPT. FEES

Members of the Advisory Committee attended this evening's meeting to discuss several matters. An update was provided earlier in the evening regarding open positions. The Treasurers position is of the utmost importance to certify free cash. In addition, no borrowing can be done. Update on the Senior Center Director was provided as well as the Town Administrator position. The AC did express their disappointment in the fact that the BOS did not advertise the Fire Chief position. Mr. Sickenberger stated that they now realize they should have, however felt that promoting from within with a more than suitable candidate was appropriate. His contract is currently tentative, and the board will be meeting with him again in Executive Session. A question was posed as to whether the town had a quorum of Certified Assessors. Mrs. Griffing asked that when the schools audit is provided that she be provided with a copy.

COMMENTS & CONCERS – NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 4, 2022 – 6 PM (Regular and Department Head Meeting)

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

10-4-22
Date Approved