BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2022

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

ATTENDEES: Acting Chief Letendre, Matthew Niles and Fire Chief Richard Lapierre

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

APPOINTMENT - PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Acting Chief Letendre put before the Board Ofc. M thew Niles. Ofc. Niles currently works part-time in North Brookfield and Brookfield. He is also empl ed full-time in Ludlow as a Firefighter/Paramedic. In total, he has 16 years of service in Fire/EMS and comes highly recommended. With no objections from the board the following motion was made: ***Motion to appoint Matthew Niles as a Part-Time Police Officer made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.***

Mr. Niles thanked the Board for their support and looks forward to working for the residents of West Brookfield.

EXECUTIVE SESSSION – AFSCME – TABLED AT THEIR REQUEST TO OCTOBER 24, 2022

Motion to enter Executive Session in accordance with MGL, c30A, §21 (2) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Fire Chief) made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous. Roll Call: 3 Yes Votes

Chief Lapierre was in attendance this evening to continue discussion on his pending contract. The only unresolved issue is that of health insurance. Unfortunately, the town did not budget for an additional benefit package. Mr. Sickenberger spoke with the accountant, and several members of the Advisory Committee and they confirmed that it is not in this year's budget. Chief Lapierre asked is once that Free Cash is certified if we could re-visit the matter. Due to the timing, all members felt that it would be met with resistance seeing it would be close the new fiscal year. At that time, it could be budgeted moving forward. The Board apologized for not being able to meet his request of health insurance at this time. Chief Lapierre did ask that he be able to take over Emergency Management. Those responsibilities were previously held under Chief O'Donnell. The Board was in full agreement to allow that and to pay him the stipend as budgeted. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to pay Fire Chief Lapierre a salary of $38,962.56 (19 hours/week) for FY 23, retro to July 1, 2022 and to further delegate Emergency Management duties to Chief Lapierre with the budgeted stipend for FY 23 of $4,300 made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Motion to exit Executive Session and Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

10/18/2022
Date Approved