BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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

ATTENDEES: Dave Tebo, Tom Long, Chief Lapierre, Jessie Morrison, Dick Rossman and Louise Garwood

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

AMERICAN LEGIION POST #244

Dave Tebo and Tom Long, members of Post #244 were in attendance this evening for an update as to the previous discussion regarding the 2023 Memorial Day Parade. At the last meeting, the thought of creating a "Friends of" group in order to raise additional funds was discussed. The town has budgeted a total of $1,500. The Board was clear that they (BOS) cannot be involved with raising funds, however committed to the $1,500 towards the parade. The board suggested that they put it on social media to spread the word. The possibility of putting an article on the next ATM was also discussed. The legion members have an upcoming meeting which they will discuss the matter of creating a "Friends of" group.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Demolition Delay Bylaw

The Commission has come before the Board to discuss the proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw. This was originally presented for the June ATM, however at the time, there were too many unanswered questions to place the article on the warrant. The Historical Commission (HC) met with the Planning Board on this matter. Mr. Pierce asked if they spoke with any of the homeowners that this would be directly affected. They have not. In short, this by-law would delay demolition of a historical building by having a grace period in which the Commission could review the project and offer assistance to the homeowner. This would be with the hope of maintaining the historical significance of the building. Mr. Sickenberger felt that the grace period of one year is a long time to ask a property owner to hold off on a project. The board is willing to revisit the matter if the proposal can be more palatable to the residents.

Scenic Road Bylaw

The HC has asked that the board consider placing an article on the ATM warrant that would call for Wickaboag Valley Road to be included as a designated Scenic Road. The only oversight in having this road included would be the cutting of trees and removal of stone walls. Mr. Pierce stated that he is willing to support if that is the extent of the oversight.

Town Hall Maintenance

After many discussions, the Board was willing to have counsel draw up an RFP for the painting of the east side of the building as well as the front door.

DECOMMISSION OF POLICE CRUISER

With the anticipated delivery of the new police cruiser, a previous discussion took place on the possibility of turning the old cruiser over to the Fire Department for use as an inspection vehicle. Mr. Sickenberger did ask for Chief Lapierre to explain the need for the vehicle. He stated that if he is away in the academy for instance and a call goes in where the need to pull one of the trailers arises, the firefighters will not be able to. The vehicle has approximately 153K miles on it. Car 1 (Fire Chief vehicle) has approximately 10K miles. He (Lapierre) has gotten a quote to paint the vehicle at a cost of $1,400 which he stated he has in his budget. Mr. Sickenberger isn't convinced that the department needs the vehicle. Both Mr. Pierce and Mr. von Bleicken are ok with transferring the vehicle to the Fire Department. Motion to transfer the police cruiser to the Fire Department made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes, 1 No – Mr. Sickenberger

APPOINTMENT – TREASURER

Motion to ratify the appointment of Ruifan Zhang as Town Treasurer made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

APPOINTMENT – STORMWATER CLERK – TABLED

FIRE CHIEF CONTRACT

The Board reviewed the recommendations that counsel has made on the proposed contract for the Fire Chief. The hours will be restricted to 19 hours per week. The recommendation by counsel to include a Termination for Convenience clause will remain.

A clean copy will be presented to the Board for final approval and signatures at the next meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of October 18, 2022, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received an email from Mr. David Fitzgerald sharing his compliments to the Highway Department for the prompt and efficient job they did in removing a large tree trunk on Birch Hill Road – ***Noted with thanks to Mr. Daley***
2. The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield will be hosting a Community Veterans Day Service on Friday, November 11, at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend to honor our military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. - ***Noted***
3. The office received an estimate for appraisal services for Phase I & II of the MassDOT project. The appraiser (Howard Dono & Associates) provided a proposal for both Phase I and Phase II.
    i. Phase I: $ 3,800
    ii. Phase II: $11,400

Jim Daley stated that he can use money in his Road Maintenance line to cover the cost of Phase I. The Town will still need to allocate funds for acquisitions. He is looking for direction from the Board. – Motion to approve Phase I with payment from Town Road Maintenance made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

4. Town Administrator Search Committee – Chapter IV, Section 1 of the Town's General By-laws prohibit members of the Advisory Committee serving on any other board/committee. Legal Counsel has rendered a concurring decision on the matter. – ***Noted – Further discussion will take place.***

NEW BUSINESS- NONE

COMMENTS & CONCERS - NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 15, 2022 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken/sea

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

November 15, 2022

Date Approved