BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ABSENT: Mr. David J. Pierce, Chairman
ATTENDEES: Sgt. Matthew Letendre

Called meeting to Order at 6:00 PM

ACTING CHIEF LETENDRE RE: STAFFING

Sgt. Letendre (as Acting Chief) attended tonight's meeting to discuss staffing concerns. There have been several vacancies in the department and the pay rate is the biggest factor in retention. The town just lost one full time officer to Auburn and another is currently in the interview process in a neighboring community. With Chief O'Donnell's retirement, the budget has an excess of $28K in his salary line. Sgt. Letendre has requested that the Board consider re-opening the Patrolman's Contract and has requested that the officers be raised two steps and in addition, allow him to bring in new hires at a higher step. The estimated increase costs for FY 23 is approximately $6,200 and for FY 24 and additional $20K. Both Mr. Sickenberger and Mr. von Bleicken have no issues with re-visiting the contract providing it is allowable. The office will confirm with counsel that it is permissible to do.

SEASONAL PLOW DRIVERS – PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICALS

After a discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to waive the pre-employment physical for seasonal plow drivers that are currently pending made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

FIRE CHIEF LAPIEERRE – CONTRACT – TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Motion to remove the "termination for convenience" out of the contract made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger - unanimous. This will be presented at the next meeting for final approval.

MOTION

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 1, 2022, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice from the Water Commissioners that they have sought independent legal counsel regarding the Leland Road Project. Town Counsel has been made aware and provided the opinion that they do not have the authority to seek counsel. – ***The Board agreed to have counsel send notice to the Water Commissioners as to the limit of their authority. In addition, with the last round of***

updated invoices, the office will advise counsel to move forward with drafting a contract to pay invoices for services rendered to date.

2. The office was made aware that after 24 years of service to the town, Dick Rossman will be retiring from the Historical Commission. The Commission members are asking if the BOS are willing to do a celebration in his honor for his years of service. – ***The Board will look into participating in an event in the spring.***
3. The office received an application for a One-Day Liquor License for Common Ground Cider Works for White Christmas. The request is for December 4, 2022 – 11 am to 6 pm. – ***Motion to approve the request made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.***

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No 23 P 10 and 23 W 10 dated November 17, 2022, in the amounts of $68,266.12 and $844,119.97 respectively made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. MVX 2021,2022 dated November 17, 2022 in the amount of $660.80 made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

After a review of the by-laws, it was noted that members of the Advisory Board cannot serve on any other board/committee in town. Also, Selectboard member Mr. Pierce stepped down from his role. Therefore, the following motion was made: ***Motion to rescind the appointments of David Pierce and Pamela Griffing from the Town Administrator Search Committee made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.***

ALSO

Motion to appoint Roland Sickenberger and John Madden to the Town Administrator Search Committee made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger

COMMENTS & CONCERS - NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 29, 2022 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

11-29-22

Date Approved