BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. David Pierce; Chairman, Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Bill Mansfield, Kevin Dorman, Gary Simeone, Diane Vayda, Betty Frew, Nancy Seremeth, Dawn Galli, Sgt. Letendre, Ofc. Melendez, Ofc. Charron

Reconvened from Executive Session at 6:00 PM for Open Session

APPOINTMENT – FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Acting Chief Letendre presented part-time Ofc. Hector Melendez for the position of Full-time Officer. Hector has been with the department for almost two years as a part-time officer and has been recommended to fill the vacancy for a full-time position. With no objection from the Board, the following motion was made: ***Motion to appoint Hector Melendez to the full-time police officer position made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.***

APPOINTMENT - SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

All three members of the Senior Center Director Search Committee were in attendance this evening. After several meetings and interviews with all candidates, the committee brought forth Ms. Dawn Galli for the position. Ms. Galli comes to us with extensive knowledge and experience and was the unanimous choice of the committee. With no objection from the Board, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Dawn Galli as the Senior Center Director made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

6:15 PM – TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Opened the public hearing on the Tax Classification in accordance with MGL Ch. 40, Section 56 on the issue of the tax levy to be borne by each class of property for FY 23. Mr. Mansfield stated that the preliminary tax rate (yet to be approved by DOR) is set at $11.99 per thousand (FY22 was $13.23). Valuations are up across the board by approximately 10%. Lake properties are up approximately 13%. The Board of Assessors are once again recommending a single tax rate. With no objection, the following motion was made: Motion to approve a single tax rate for West Brookfield as recommended by the Board of Assessors made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

FIRE CHIEF LAPIERRE – APPROVE AND RATIFY CONTRACT

After several meetings and a review by counsel, the Board approved the contract for Chief Lapierre. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign and ratify the contract for Chief Lapierre as presented made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2022, as written made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Pierce due to absence).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received a letter from Lori Loughlin resigning from the Advisory Committee. – ***Noted***
2. The office received the draft letter provided by Town Counsel to the Water Commissioners. Counsel is looking for confirmation to proceed. – ***All in favor to proceed***
3. The office also received a draft contract for McClure Engineering for services rendered to date. Counsel is looking for confirmation to proceed. – ***Motion to proceed in signing contract and paying legitimate invoices only made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger - unanimous.***
4. The office received the enclosed letter from the BOA regarding unpaid taxes. Mr. Simeone followed up with an email which you were copied on. - ***Noted***
5. A request for a Special Use Permit for Lake Wickaboag was submitted for Aluminum Fishing Series for April 29, 2023. – ***Motion to approve the permit as requested made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.***
6. Heather Gough provided the enclosed copy from the Town of North Brookfield who is considering opting out of the ability to vote by mail for municipal elections. She is looking to gauge the board's interest. – ***The Board is not in favor***

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No 23 P 11 and 23 W 11 dated December 1, 2022, in the amounts of $72,818.47 and $33,945.99 respectively made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. von Bleicken stated that the Police Chief Search Committee finished the first round of interviews and there are several more on Wednesday. The committee will be bringing final candidates forward to the Personnel Board for consideration.

Mr. Sickenberger also added that the Town Administrator Search Committee met on Monday. The Committee organized and will be meeting again soon.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS - NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 6, 2022 – 6 PM – Possible
December 13, 2022 – 6 PM – Next Regular Meeting Date

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

1-31-23
Date Approved