

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, May 22, 2023  
6:30 PM  
Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Stuart Edson, Keith Sprague, Betty Lord, Curtis Koren who arrived late, members; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer. Maddy Wennerstrom, and Nate Schmechel.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – Payroll and AP Warrants, Highway were discussed first and then the Board began Public Comments.
- C. Public Comments
  - 1. Brian Lafayette – Regarding a new bill just being signed about Towns taking care of the Homeless people. (No show)
  - 2. Nate Schmechel, Maddy Wennerstrom – Road utilization, excessive speed, driving on property, widening road on Cram Hill and Davis Acres Rd., proposal by Scott Wakefield – Mr. Schmechel began by telling the Board that for the past few years he has been trying to work with Mr. Wakefield regarding his farm equipment going too fast on Davis Acres Road as well as Cram Hill. He feels Mr. Wakefield is being dismissive and would like help from the Town to put up stop signs, as well as speeding signs, to help safeguard the children that ride bikes, and people that walk or drive there. Mr. Benson will check with the State to see what the rules are. Ms. Wennerstrom, who lives on Cram Hill, says that the Wakefield farm equipment has caused her to lose at least eight feet of her lawn. Mr. Sprague will go to West Brookfield and survey the situation.
  
- A. Payroll and AP Warrants – Mr. Edson made a motion to approve the May 22, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented with a total of \$40,897.12 with the largest payment being made to the Orange County Courts. Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

- b. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that the road crew had been busy grading roads, putting up road signs, and culvert work, as well as removing a tree. Mr. Higgins plans to order more street signs. Mr. Sprague received a quote from Mr. Conniff to replace the roof on the existing shop at the Town garage of approximately \$25,000. Mr. Benson suggested the Board approve \$35,000 due to the possible wood rot caused by leaking. Mr. Benson made a motion to set \$35,000 aside for work on the shed roof. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0. The work on the shed is estimated to begin around May 1, 2024.
  
- c. Mr. Sprague will talk to WB Rogers regarding work on erosion control and the purchase of sand.
  - 1. MOU Contract – The Board agreed that the Route 65 contract should raise the Foreman and Crew Labor by 5% hourly. Ms. Blanchard will return the contract to Vtrans and wait for the updated contract to be returned to the Town.
  - 2. Bridge Design contract – Mr. Benson made a motion to execute the agreement with VHB for the bridge design on Halfway Brook Road Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0
  - 3. Public Highway obstruction/snow (Reference: Larry Brassard letters) - Tabled until the next meeting.
  - 4. Route 65 up to Bear Hill and Allis State Park speeding. Mr. Gordon Harper has contacted the Board requesting that the speed limit on Route 65 be reduced. Mrs. Lord will contact Mr. Harper and inform him that the Town has no jurisdiction over Route 65 as it is a State Highway. He will be given a telephone number to contact the Maintenance office in Berlin which represents District 6 and is responsible for the highways in the Town of Brookfield.
  
- A. New Business - none
- B. Old Business - none
- c. Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023, and May 16, 2023 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the May 8, 2023, and the May 16, 2023, minutes (which was a Special Meeting) as presented. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

#### D. Other Proper Business

1. Kirkyard Services Contracts for Cemetery Maintenance and Cemetery Sexton – Ms. Lord made a motion to approve both the Cemetery Maintenance and Cemetery Sexton contracts as presented, Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
2. Public Safety Committee update – Mr. Edson reported the Public Safety Committee wanted to make sure there was money available for new signs for the Town and the Board agreed there was.
3. The Public Safety Committee also asked about specialty signs and Mr. Benson reported that it had been recommended that they not be posted as they can cause a liability issue.
4. Mr. Edson reported that Sheriff Contois had sent the PSAC FY 2024 Police Service Contract to the Safety Committee. The PSC will review the contract, make any minor changes they wish to make and then present it to the Selectboard for their review.

#### A. Status Report

1. Brandon Stevens contract for roadside mowing. Not received. Tabled until contract is received.
2. Painting the Town Clerk's office estimated cost \$7,500. Ms. Koren made a motion to have Stan Wheeler paint the whole building for \$7,500, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
- 3 .Mr. Benson reported that the situation on Twin Pond road seems to be escalating and Mr. Fiorillo for is going to talk with the Town Attorney to find a resolution.
- 4 .Mr. Benson made a motion to execute the Grand List Extension request that was received, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
2. Mr. Edson met with the four owners on Old Stage Road and there are still two that have signed a quick claim deed and two that have not because they want to talk with their lawyers.
3. Mr. Sprague reported that he was asked if the Fire Department could purchase a "Jaws of Life Unit". They will be asked to wait until the next Fiscal Year.

Mr. Sprague made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:30 pm. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Edson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 pm. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

K. Adjournment – Mr. Sprague made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm, Ms. Koren seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.