

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, December 27, 2023

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Betty Lord, Keith Sprague, Stuart Edson, Curtis Koren, members; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer. Jack Zebora.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – none
- C. Public Comments – none
- D. Payroll and AP Warrants – Ms. Lord made a motion to accept the December 27, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented with a total of \$27,290.40 with the largest payment being made to Blue Cross Blue Shield in the amount of \$6,580.35. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
- E. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that a lot of stone had been put on the road due to all the mud. On Wednesday a lot of stone for the roads was moved from the quarry. Someone has been parking by the fire hydrant near the floating bridge and it was brought to the attention of the Board. Ms. Koren knows the person and will speak to him. The person could be fined for parking by a fire hydrant and if it continues, the Sheriff will be called.One of the Town trucks was down but the crew has been able to keep things running. One of the trucks now has a damaged radiator due to the accident last month.Larry Brassard had a tree come down on his lawn and into the road. The Town moved the tree out of the roadway.Rob Townsend is working on Montgomery Road and is about to set the marker. Regarding the property near the cemetery, Rob Townsend needs to do the research for the lot line and provide the cost for his services so that it can go into the budget next year. Mr. Edson reported that Michael Monte, the Town's attorney, thought it was better to do a warranty deed versus a quit claim deed when it is determined who owns the land in question.Mr.

Benson asked Mr. Edson to talk to Michael Monte and have him write a letter to Nate Schmechel, Scott Wakefield and others involved on the West Brookfield Road dispute explaining what the Town is authorized to do and what can only be done by the Sheriff.

Mr. Edson made a motion that the Board hire Ed Small from DuBois & King to look into the Right-of-Way issue in West Brookfield, Ms. Lord seconded which carried unanimously 5-0-0

F. New Business

1. Budget discussion – The Board has received most of the information it needs to start putting the 2024 budget together.

G. Old Business – none

H. Meeting Minutes

1. Amended November 27, 2023 – The November 27, 2023, had been amended, was signed by all the members, and reposted on the webpage.
2. December 11, 2023 – Mr. Sprague made a motion to accept the December 11, 2023, as presented. Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0 (Mr. Edson abstained as he was not in attendance at that meeting.)

I. Other Proper Business

1. Request for information on why the Town of Brookfield went to a five member Selectboard from VLCT and Roxbury – a group of town residents wanted a five-member board. They obtained the number of signatures required to put in on the Warning and the Town voted to have a five-member board.
2. Tax Map Maintenance Proposal – Mr. Edson will reach out to Teresa Godfrey and one of the listers to determine if the Boad should pay for one or two years for Tax Map Maintenance. Mr. Edson will report back at the next meeting.
3. Town office bathroom floor – Mr. Benson made a motion to go replace the bathroom floor in the Town office. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

4. Email from Linda Kelly – She talked to Vt State Dept. of Environment about the Vermont salvage yard program but does the Town of Brookfield also have ordinances regarding inoperable vehicles on privately owned land. Mr. Edson who received the same email responded that no more than four inoperable vehicles were allowed on private property.
5. Discussion on request of \$500 to \$1,500 must be warned. (See emails from Randolph Area Food Shelf and Northern Chapter Great Dane Rescue of New England from the Chittenden area) – The Board concurred in a decision not to donate to the Northern Chapter for Great Danes as it does not operate in our area. Randolph Food Shelf asked for and increase in their donation from \$500 to \$1,500. The usual amount of \$500 will be put in the budget and the additional \$1,000 will be Warned and the voters at Town Meeting will need to approve the additional \$1,000.
6. Dental Coverage – The Town Clerk will personally pay for her dental coverage through the Town policy.
7. Public Assemblage permit for the Brookfield Ice Harvest on January 27, 2024. Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the permit for January 27, 2024, for the Brookfield Ice Harvest. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
8. Mr. Edson reported that the Public Safety Committee request \$200 be put in the 2023-2024 budget for the purchase of vests for policing. He also reported that extra No Parking Signs should be put up on Stone Road on the side of road opposite the Town Hall. A question of where people could park in town was raised. The only public parking in town is the lot beside the Town Clerk's Office and a small area right across from the Town Hall.

J. Status Report – none

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:05 pm. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Edson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 pm. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

K. Adjournment – Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.