

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman William R. Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: William R. Davidson, First Selectman; Howard Lasser, Selectman; George Walker, Selectman; William Leverage, Controller; members of the public; Emily Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT(S): The following residents addressed the Selectmen:

1. Carey Hallis of 10 Dingle Brook Road
2. Mary Borges of 6 Dingle Brook Road

Mr. Davidson stated that he will speak with Ralph Tedesco, the Public Works Director, who oversees the roads about the condition of Dingle Brook Road.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Brookfield Matters will be published tomorrow. Sign-up for the newsletter may be done via the Town's website.
- The 5th Annual Brookfield Film Festival on April 5, 6 & 7 at new location: The Alexandria Room at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown.
- The Senior Center has received a LEED NC Silver Award.
- School Security Advisory Council second meeting will be held tomorrow.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was none for this meeting.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS: Controller William Leverage reported on the monthly financial results. Controller William Leverage submitted for board approval a budget modification request to accommodate additional accounting services required to complete the 2011-2012 annual financial audit. **Mr. Davidson motioned whereas \$37,270 of additional professional services were required by the Accounting Management Services to ensure the accurate and timely completion of the 2011-2012 fiscal year certified annual financial review for the Town of Brookfield and whereas the original amount available in the budget line for completion of the CAFR was not sufficient to accommodate payments for the required additional professional service; now therefore the Controller's Office seeks approval of the following budget adjustments to accommodate the above action, which is to transfer from contingency the necessary sums so the contingency budget which was \$50,419 would be reduced to \$13,149 and [the money would be transferred] into the Board of Finance audit line, that amount of money so the original budget of \$46,000 would now be \$83,270, which would give the additional funds to pay the auditors as well as Accounting Management Services. George Walker seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 2-1, with Howard Lasser in opposition.**

PARKING APPEALS: a) Timothy Cobbol; b) George Assad; c) Charles Burch; d) Melanie Summers – Timothy Cobbol of 76 North Mountain Road was present and spoke about this matter. Mr. Davidson noted that these were four nearly identical parking appeals for four parking tickets that were given one hour and twenty minutes apart by the same officer. Mr. Davidson noted that he had looked up the historical weather report for that day, and the precipitation was 0.3 inches. The tickets were given in the early morning, around 4:00 AM. Mr. Davidson noted that there are several ordinances that support the tickets. Mr. Davidson noted the two ordinances – restriction on all night parking (§ 168-2) and Parking during storms (§168-3). George Walker also noted how close the tickets were to each other in proximity. **Recognizing the appeal, the Selectmen voted to have all four of the tickets dismissed. The vote passed 2-1, with Howard Lasser in opposition.**

NEW ITEMS

INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANTS – WATERLINE UPGRADES: Mr. Davidson explained that there will be continuous upgrades of older waterlines in Brookfield in upcoming years. Mr. Davidson explained that the Selectmen made the decision that where feasible, if a neighborhood waterline is installed or upgraded, fire hydrants will be provided. Mr. Davidson also explained that there are some locations where there is not enough water pressure, so in those locations the hydrant will not be installed or replaced. Mr. Davidson noted that if it is feasible to have a fire hydrant, it will be installed, and this work will be coordinated between Ralph Tedesco and Aquarion Water Company.

SEWER AUTHORITY (AD-HOC) COMMITTEE REPORT: Mr. Davidson stated that this item will be discussed on April 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM in Room 209. Howard Lasser asked that #3 on executive summary, where the report states that the money that the WPCA collects from the bonds should be directly deposited in an account to the Treasurer rather than staying in the WPCA's books, should be referred to the Town Attorney. Howard Lasser stated that when he had made this same suggestion to the WPCA several years ago, their attorney had stated that they couldn't do that because it was against the law. Howard Lasser mentioned that he wants to be sure that the Town Attorney has reviewed this recommendation and determines that it is consistent with State statute.

SELECTMEN FORUM: Mr. Davidson announced that there is a Selectmen Forum scheduled on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 PM at the Brookfield Library's Community Room. There will be a question and answer section of this event.

CONSIDER ITEMS FOR PURCHASE TO BE FINANCED BY BONDING: Howard Lasser motioned to table this item. George Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mr. Davidson made a motion to have a special Board of Selectmen's meeting on Friday, April 5, 2013 at 11:00 AM to consider items to be financed by bond. Howard Lasser seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0. Howard Lasser noted that some of these items might be bonded over a shorter period of time, such as the gas conversion.

UPDATES

FARMERS MARKET: Betsy McIlvaine of 127 Long Meadow Hill Road and Wendy Youngblood of 2 Signal Hill Road were present and gave an update of the progress of the Farmers Market. Ms. McIlvaine described the purpose of the Farmers' Market to have a meeting space to bring more people in for Brookfield gatherings. Ms. McIlvaine asked if the market could be held on Town property, and she also noted that this is not a Town ad-hoc committee. Mr. Davidson explained that the group could be advisors to the Selectmen, which will offer the group a bit more flexibility. Ms. McIlvaine also noted that there are some items that the group needs to inquire of the Town Attorney, and Mr. Davidson noted that the information should be sent to him, and he will forward it directly to the Town Attorney. Ms. McIlvaine asked if the Land Use Office may be the liaison between the advisory group and the official town bodies because two members of this group work in that office. Mr. Davidson replied that the group can start work with the Land Use Office and see how this works, but that some of the information may need to come through his office. Ms. McIlvaine asked about selling wine on Town property; Howard Lasser suggested that this question be added to the list of their questions to be sent to the Town Attorney.

INDIAN FIELD POND PROPERTY: Request for Town's acceptance of pond property at 24 Cherokee Lane – Mr. Davidson reviewed that the residents who owned this property wanted to deed it to the Town as a gift, and there were some concerns about the value of the land to the Town. Mr. Davidson noted that the Selectmen, other residents and A. Dew of the Conservation Commission walked the property together. Mr. Davidson stated that considerable amount of time has been spent on this item. **George Walker moved to accept the offer by the Indian Fields Homeowners' Association to donate a parcel of open space to the Town. Howard Lasser seconded the motion; motion defeated 0-3.** Mr. Davidson summarized that the Board of Selectmen were inclined to deny this offer because, from the Town's perspective, it is a burden rather than an asset and this would be a very difficult piece of property for residents to enjoy without trespassing on private property.

2013/2014 BUDGET ACTIVITIES: Public Hearing Tuesday, April 9 and Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 7. – Mr. Davidson reported important upcoming dates: April 9 public hearing in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 PM where the budget as it now stands will be presented; annual town meeting on Tuesday, May 7, where the date for the budget referendum is set; April 16, when the Board of Finance meets to make their final recommendation of the budget.

TOWN OWNED COTTAGE AND BARN: (186 Whisconier Road) – Mr. Davidson stated that there were no offers for the sale of property at the auction held on Saturday, March 16th. He has met with a local contractor who has done historical renovations in Town and also with the chair of the Historic District. Reasons why the cottage did not sell are currently being investigated, and there will be more information upcoming.

CELL TOWER – HOMELAND TOWERS PROPOSAL: Howard Lasser made a motion that the First Selectman be authorized to sign the lease contingent upon review of the Town Attorney. George Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0. Mr. Davidson explained that the plan for this tower is to install it behind the Fire house. Mr. Davidson also noted that this project will now need to be approved through the Siting Council of the State of Connecticut.

MEADOWBROOK MANOR: Mr. Davidson stated that the Town has been working to get approval to take the immense amount of storm water and add it into a near stream. Mr. Davidson stated that the Town is close to one of the approvals, and continues to do engineering studies to get information to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in effort to obtain a discharge permit. Mr. Davidson also explained that the Housatonic Valley County of Elected Officials (HVCEO) has sent out information regarding a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Davidson noted that there will be funding available for this program through both the federal government and the HVCEO reserve to start a hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Davidson noted that the Towns in this area are planning to work together to create a hazard mitigation plan.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

- March 4, 2013: *On page 1 of the March 4, 2013 minutes, the amount of the budget should reflect \$59,301,548.00 instead of the currently reflected amount. Also, on page 3 of these minutes, in the last sentence of the third full paragraph, change the word "guaranteed" to "stated".*
- March 8, 2013

NEW HIRE REPORT: Staffing Changes

- Christopher Hansen, Assistant Sanitarian
- Patrick Seeley, Police Officer
- Brian Flanagan, Police Officer (month of January)
- Steven Rountos, Police Officer (month of January)

SELECTMEN APPROVALS FOR ROUTINE GRANT MATTERS: Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION: Howard Lasser moved to accept the consent agenda as amended. George Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0.

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS:

Howard Lasser moved to appoint Joni Park to the Brookfield Housing Authority. George Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S): There were no comments at this time.

ADJOURN:
Howard Lasser made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. George Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, 3-0.

William R. Davidson
First Selectman

Howard Lasser
Selectman

George F. Walker
Selectman

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