**Board of Selectmen**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday January 31, 2013**

**6:30pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Austin Tanner, Bob Kelleher, Drew Dionne, Melissa Bradley; Secretary

**Also Present:** David Fuss, Mike Barry, Gerry Renaud, Members of East Brooklyn Fire Company, Norwich Bulletin and WINY Radio

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tanner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Approve Previous Minutes:** Drew Dionne made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
3. **Public Participation:** Mike Barry, chairman of BRRA; Mr. Barry is concerned with the two hours that are allocated in the BRRA budget for their secretary’s salary. He does not feel that time is accurate and would like to remove it from the budget to reduce the confusion. Mr. Barry would also like to see the Selectmen meet more with commissions and increase communication. Mr. Tanner agrees there could be better communication. Gerard Renaud, clerk for East Brooklyn Fire District; Mr. Renaud submits information concerning the creation of the fire district and reads and submits a letter of concern to the Selectmen. (Complete letter attached) Mr. Renaud is against dissolving the fire district and asked the First Selectman not to proceed with an exploratory committee. He does not feel proper legal steps has been taken and is prepared to retain legal counsel. Mr. Renaud also comments on Mortlake’s failure to report financial statements as requested by the board of finance. Mr. Tanner reserves comments until later on the agenda.
4. **Discussion on Position Study:** Mr. Filchak of NECCOG has drafted a questionnaire for employees and they have been distributed. They are due back to Mr. Filchak on February 4, 2013. The union has grieved the questionnaire, but it is going forward at this point.
5. **Discussion on Fire District:** Mr. Tanner states he has had extensive discussion with Mr. Renaud and respectfully wishes Mr. Renaud kept his facts straighter and feels some actuations were made that are not true. Mr. Tanner reads into the record an email sent by Kyle Wojick insisting on moving forward with the exploratory committee. Mr. Wojick comes with these concerns as a citizen as he has stepped down as president of the East Brooklyn Fire District. Mr. Dionne comments his recollection of the committee was to look at the financials and what the Town would absorb if it was disbanded. Mr. Kelleher states the decision to dissolve the district resolves with the people in the district and does not think they should go forward for just one person. If the majority of the population wanted this to move forward, then it should be looked into. Mr. Tanner states it is the duty of the Selectmen to look into things as they are requested by citizens. If it was decided to dissolve the district, the Selectmen would have to decide if the Town wanted to accept the liabilities. Drew Dionne made a motion to table the committee named at the previous meeting, indefinitely. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Mr. Kelleher comments the board reacted to a request made by the President of the district and is disappointed to hear there has been no reconciliation between the departments. Motion passed 3-0.

Bob Kelleher made a motion to recess the meeting for six minutes at 6:58pm to allow Selectman Dionne to drop off his son. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Austin Tanner made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:12pm. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

1. **Discussion on Ice Grant:** Mr. Tanner states there is a resolution needed to be passed at town meeting to allow him as the administrator of the grant and sign any necessary paper work. This will delay the funds but can be done at the next town meeting.
2. **Discussion on Budget:** The Selectmen plan to meet with Sherri on February 21st at 4pm at the Town Hall. Mr. Kelleher requests to have the preliminary budget and year to date figures. A budget workshop will be held on February 16th at 9am at the Town Hall to begin discussions.
3. **Discussion on Selectmen Forum:** One issue that came up that was not discussed a term for the Treasurer if appointed. Drew Dionne suggests looking at other Town’s to see the length of the term. Mr. Tanner will talk to Thompson and the Town Attorney. The Blight committee will be meeting again to finalize the ordinance. Mr. Tanner will check availability for the 20th.
4. **Discussion on Town Meeting:** Mr. Tanner will check availability on or around March 4th or 5th.
5. **Discussion on Events Ordinance:** The board feels there is still some confusion with the ordinance. It is questioned if it is a onetime event if a permit will be required or if it is a town function, if the fee would be waived. Mr. Kelleher will re draft the ordinance and send to the Selectmen, Town Attorney and Jim Larkin at NECCOG.
6. **Discussion on Probate Courts:** Mr. Tanner is meeting with Judge Schad tomorrow morning to discuss options before the next NECCOG meeting.
7. **Discussion on Community Center:** Bucky Lohbusch submitted a preliminary drawing of the space and what would be needed for the Recreation Department. Carpeting and painting will be needed in the building. Mr. Tanner is going to look at it with John Berard.
8. **Liaison Reports:** Mr. Dionne reports Dr. Berry stated at the last BOE meeting the budget for this year looks to be on schedule. School security was discussed and decided upon to set up a security committee.
9. **Other Business**
* Mr. Tanner reports he has not received a signed statement from the Land Use Officer stating he is retiring. Mr. Tanner is uncertain where that leaves the position, if he can go ahead and advertise. Mr. Tanner states he asked Chuck to sign something saying he is retiring in March and he said no and would talk more on Monday. Mr. Kelleher states it is unfortunate because they cannot move to fill the position.
* Mr. Fuss states CAD drawings would be helpful for the Community Center. Mr. Fuss knows of a gentleman in Town and will forward the information to Mr. Tanner. This would be a lower cost than an architect.
* Mr. Dionne questions how to change the chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners to someone who is not a member of either fire company. Mr. Tanner states the ordinance would have to be changed. Mr. Tanner will ask the Town Attorney for a ruling. Mr. Kelleher agrees with Mr. Dionne’s suggestion and states he is disappointed they are back to square one with their relationship. Mr. Tanner states the representative of the Board of Finance is a Mortlake member and that is raising an issue with the East Brooklyn department. Mr. Kelleher feels we need to wait for a ruling from the attorney. Mr. Dionne feels the ambulance financial request was a hot issue with the Board of Finance and it seemed to be put on the back burner. Mr. Tanner states perhaps the Board of Selectmen should request to the Board of Finance a committee to look into the ambulance.

\*Mr. Dionne leaves the meeting at 8:25pm.

* Mr. Tanner would like to endorse the Hampton Regional Housing Application and put it on the next Town Meeting. Bob Kelleher made a motion we participate with the Regional Housing and the call of the Town Meeting include Mr. Tanner to sign and execute documents for Hampton Regional Housing Rehab Program and the ICE Grant Program. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.
* Mr. Kelleher comments on the Ag Ordinance and the exclusion of eligibility for the exemption housing for seasonal employees. Mr. Tanner will find out why it was excluded.
* Mr. Tanner received an application for the Board of Fire Commissioners from a retired trooper. Mr. Tanner has not spoken with the chairman yet and will bring this back to the board at a later date.
* An extension was filed for the audit because the GASB report was not received in time.
* The RFP for an auditor went to bid and was published in the paper.
* Lisa Arends asked for the Malone and MacBroom report to be published on the website. Mr. Tanner states he is going to have it published with the minutes from the Planning and Zoning.
1. **Approve Bills:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to approve and pay the bills. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.
2. **Adjourn:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley

Secretary