

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 30, 2020
9:00am Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Rick Ives, Austin Tanner, Lou Brodeur and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary

Also Present: Ken Dykstra, Sandy Brodeur, Stan Karro, and WINY radio

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
2. **Approve Minutes:** Lou Brodeur made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/13/20 as presented. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
3. **Public Comment:** Stan Karro questions if any cleaning up is going to be done at the neglected property adjacent to the Town Hall, Brooklyn Oil? Mr. Ives states he has spoken to the owner previously and he did clean it up some. The Selectmen will research the blight ordinance and discuss more at the next meeting.
Mr. Karro would like an update on the dead tree removal in Town. Mr. Ives states it will be discussed later in the meeting.
4. **Appointments:** Austin Tanner made a motion to reappoint Rick Ives to Resource Recovery with a term expiring 11/16/2021. Lou Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
5. **Discussion on 2019-20 Financials:** These were not sent out because there were some issues that needed to be corrected. They should be sent out later today.
6. **Discussion on 2018/09 Budget/Audit Update & M.F.A.C.:** Mr. Ives, along with the accountant and auditor, meet with MFAC (municipal finance audit committee) and it seemed to go well. They encouraged the Town to get a Finance Director. The meetings with them were caused from late audits, especially the last one that was at least six months overdue. The current audit is almost finished, they have received all the needed material from the Town. There was one account left to balance which was the due to – due from account but should be completed or just about completed.
7. **Discussion on STEAP Grant Procedures:** The new regulations have not been released yet, most likely be in February. They are changing the application process.

8. **Little League Grant Update:** No new information to report. DEP is still discussing our access to the funds. If they do not produce an answer, it will go to legislation.
9. **2020-2021 Budget Update:** Approximately half of the department responses are in and almost all of the outside requests as well. There is a budget workshop scheduled for later today. Capital should begin in February.
10. Lou Brodeur made a motion to add discussion and action of purchasing a new waste oil furnace for the Town Garage to the agenda. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The current system is 30 years old. This is the garages primary heating source. They are currently using propane that was not budgeted for. The furnace is cracked and is unrepairable. Tom Rukstela received three quotes and it will cost approximately \$8,000. It will need to be brought to the Board of Finance for approval and Mr. Ives suggests using contingency funds and Mr. Tanner suggested capital. Lou Brodeur made a motion to recommend the expenditure of \$8,000 to the Board of Finance for the purchase of a new waste oil furnace for the Highway Garage. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

11. **Continue Discussion on Selectman Brodeur's Correspondence:** Discussion continued regarding EDC and suggested maybe the Brooklyn Business Association could take it over. Mr. Ives states that would be a conflict of interest, but they could consult with them. Mr. Ives has asked the commission for a mission statement and plan, several times, and nothing has been produced. He feels this is necessary to move forward. Selectman Brodeur and Tanner agree to sit in on some meetings to see the direction of the commission and offer insight.
12. **Discussion on Building Design – Capital:** Mr. Ives has asked CLA engineers to design two plans; one for a new complex to house the town hall, library and community room and another to get everyone back into the existing town hall. More discussion to follow.
13. **Other Business:** There have been lights seen in the porta potties at Prince Hill Park at night. It is suggested to have the Resident Trooper monitor that area. Trooper Corradi works days unless asked to work a night shift or an event. Mr. Ives will ask the barracks to monitor.

Casella recycling containers are given to new residents at no cost if a tote is not left at the new home, they need to contact the Selectman's office. Additional totes can also be purchased for \$50 from the transfer station during their normal business hours.

Mr. Tanner states there are election funds available to Towns and suggests we purchase new machines with it. Mr. Ives has not been able to find information on this but will look further into it. The State bought the current machines at least 10 years ago.

When approving bills, if there is a question on one or more, the bill in question will be removed and the rest will be approved so the entire batch is not held up. The other bill/bills will be approved after the question has been satisfied.

Mr. Brodeur states the BBA offered to help the Town with decorating at Christmas season. There is a wiring issue with the lighted trees on Route 6. Mr. Brodeur will talk with Ellis Tech to see if this could be a project the students could work on. Mr. Ives states there was also discussion at the department head meeting about having an event for the Town.

Mr. Ives reports he had to sign a check for the school to satisfy a debt we owed to the IRS.

Tree trimming in Town began a year and a half ago and have spent approximately \$130,000. This was dead trees on Town property and not on the roadside with wires. Eversource has been trimming the wire side and should be back in May to continue. The Town has approximately 50-60 trees marked to continue this Spring/ Summer and next year.

14. Approve Bills: Who the sand bid was awarded to was questioned. Mr. Ives will double check. The ADP services is payroll for the Town and School. Lou Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1072 in the amount of \$33,056.98 dated 1/30/2020. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

15. Public Comment: Sandy Brodeur received some literature in the mail from AARP regarding housing, busing, EDC, etc. and thought it was good information. Mr. Ives would like to review it and discuss at the next meeting.

The building committee for the solar project at the school met and approximately \$600,000 was saved from what DAS approved. They sent it to the board for approval. Mr. Ives states the building committee has complete control to approve the project and does not report to the school or need their approval. The school can review and make suggestions, but ultimately, the building committee approves. The construction should start in June and be finished before the beginning of school in the fall. The middle school cost was \$594,000 and the elementary \$595,000.

16. Adjourn: Lou Brodeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Austin Tanner seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary