



TOWN OF BROOKLYN
P.O. Box 356 - Route 6 and 169
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
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Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 6:30 pm
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
and via Zoom

Present: Austin Tanner, Joe Voccio, Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Ken Dykstra, Richard Dvorin, Nick Provost, William Wheaton, Other members of the Public

Absent: Lou Brodeur (excused)

1. Call to Order: A. Tanner called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

2. Approve Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023: J. Voccio made a motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2023; A. Tanner seconded the motion; and the minutes of April 27, 2023 were approved. A. Tanner made a motion to add Emergency Management Performance Grant authorization to the Agenda as item 8a; J. Voccio seconded; and the motion was approved.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Appointments: None

5. Old Business

a. Green Building: A. Tanner spoke with the contractor, and we finally have the plans to secure the trusses so that they are strong enough to hold the building that they have held for 20 years, but no price yet. He is meeting with him Monday to go over how we are going to do the whole operation. He spoke with G. Bryant about setting up the Owl at the Community Center because the meeting room at the Green Building is going to be gutted for a while so we will need to have our meetings there for a few months.

b. Recycling Bids: A. Tanner stated we received two recycling bids, one from CWPM of Plainville and one from Casella. Next time, we should make them fill out forms so that they are the same and easier to decipher. He believes Casella is cheaper on the recycling, but he is working on deciphering the two and obtaining additional information from them.

6. New Business

a. Approve Sale of Tripp Hollow, Lot 7-19 7.3A: J. Voccio made a motion to approve the sale of Tripp Hollow Road, Brooklyn, Lot 7-19 7.3A subject to a Town meeting vote; A. Tanner seconded; and the motion was approved.

b. Approve Sale of 369 Stetson Road, Lot 19-1, 4.13A: J. Voccio made a motion to approve for purchase 369 Stetson Road, Lot 19-1 4.13A subject to evidence of clear title and ownership by the Town; A. Tanner seconded; and the motion was approved.

7. Review Single Family Dwellings Report: Acknowledged.

8. Approve Fair Housing/Affirmative Action Resolutions: J. Voccio made a motion to approve the Fair Housing documents; A. Tanner seconded the motion; and the motion was approved. J. Voccio stated and A. Tanner agreed that the Town was covered as long as these documents are posted on the Town website so that the public is aware that A. Tanner is the affirmative action officer in the event that there is a fair housing claim within the Town.

a. Emergency Management Performance Grant authorization: J. Voccio made a motion to approve the authorizing resolution of the Town of Brooklyn for signature by A. Tanner so that the Town of Brooklyn may enter into and deliver to the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection any and all documents which may be needed or necessary to apply for and receive grants from the State; A. Tanner seconded; and the motion was approved.

9. Discussion on Proposed Budget Petition: J. Voccio stated he asked that this item be added in case official action had to be taken to try to modify the budget and re-direct funds from the Town budget to the District budget. He said by default, if they eliminate it from the Town Budget, the District steps up and covers it and in reviewing source documentation about the Fire Districts within the state, he is not sure this is the proper mechanism for what folks are requesting to do. He also said the two ways a district can be created are outlined in Section 7-195 of the CGS, and the Brooklyn Fire District was created by a Special Act of the legislature and it is clear that in order to modified it, it would have to be approved by the General Assembly in the same fashion. He said it is important because folks are talking about the Fire District not following processes and procedures that are outlined in 7-195 but it is clear that a district that is created by a special act that was in existence before 1957 does not necessarily need to follow these requirements of 7-195. He further said R. Ives suggested that perhaps we have our Town Attorney opine on this so that maybe we could dispel some of the assumptions of the community, and he thinks it is a good idea. He also said that as to some of the source documents that have been provided by members of the community, he is not sure they have actually read them because some of the things they are requesting or that they are saying the District is guilty of were all recommendations in that report and he does not think they were ever passed by the General Assembly, which is one of the necessities to change the manner in which the District operates. He said the other way to do it is voluntarily, and that he is not sure the process that folks are following is the proper one because it is the process for districts established by general law and not the ones established by state statute. A. Tanner stated that he provided the Town Attorney with copies of the legislative act and the petition and asked for his opinion. A. Tanner stated that Matt Nemeth called him and asked him to just do it instead of having a petition. A. Tanner stated the Petition was to follow Section 7-195, the consolidation of governments, which would basically get rid of the District.

10. Discussion on Financials: J. Voccio did not receive the financials in their entirety, so A. Tanner gave him his copy to review. A. Tanner stated that he believed T. Rukstela was satisfied with the remaining funds in roads and bridges, and that there is still a lot of money left for snow and ice but we do not want to take away from that. He also said that we received the audit back and the reserve is over 8%. J. Voccio stated that our tree removal program was extremely successful, and he would be willing to transfer money into that if needed. A. Tanner stated that LOCIP funds can now be used for tree removal.

11. Approve Bills: A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1554, dated 5/11/23, for \$70,016.49 (main bills); J. Voccio seconded. J. Voccio said included in this Voucher, there are electrical bills from Eversource for Park Maintenance and South Street, but there is also some for the streetlights, but none of these are covering Fire District related lampposts, and the addresses do not seem to match up. Motion was approved. A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1550, dated 5/15/23, for \$519.62 (mileage reimbursement); J. Voccio seconded; motion approved. A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1553, dated 5/12/23, for \$1,032.85 (gas); J. Voccio seconded; motion approved. A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1551, dated 5/12/23, for \$395.18 (Frontier); J. Voccio seconded; motion approved.

12. Other Business: J. Voccio brought up what the Fire District is paying for and what the District is paying for and he would welcome an opportunity for the District and the Fire Company to sit in the same room with whatever municipal leaders we want to assemble and have this discussion. He said when people throw facts that are not really

facts and they are not correct, it does damage to the Town and the culture and the communication and that is what he is trying to clarify. A. Tanner said we could invite the Selectmen, Finance, and Fire Commissioner, and J. Voccia agreed, and those boards could invite as many members as they wish. they want. N. Provost discussed the differences and similarities of the fire helmets between Mortlake and East Brooklyn and the Lieutenants and Junior Cadets and how the colors of the helmets dictate the titles and capabilities of the firemen and how they are trying to get on the same page so that there is no confusion. He said this would mean replacing helmets that are not due to be replaced and are not in the budget, but it is for the safety of the members. N. Provost also said that they had to update their gear and buy gear for new members, so they are over budget. He said at the last annual meeting, they discussed that the District and Department will have a sit down and discuss who pays for what, that the by-laws can only be changed annually, and they are organized and trying to handle one thing at a time so that there is no confusion. N. Provost also stated he had with him at this meeting all the information about the streetlights for 21-22, the audit report, the complete budget, and all the expenses paid. A. Tanner stated that we just need to sit down and confirm what is in the district and what is not. N. Provost stated that the lack of transparency claims are starting to get old, that if there is a question on something, just ask, and he told the public the same thing.

13. Public Comment: K. Dykstra stated that he wished this openness would have happened when the budget was presented, and he is happy it is being brought up now. N. Provost stated that he had handed a packet and a letter with an explanation to the Board of Fire Commissioners, but he cannot speak to why it never came forward. He further stated that the way things are handled are that the District is the landlord, the Department is the tenant, the District pays for the major maintenance on the building, and the Department pays for its daily things, things that they want to change or improve that are not big structural projects, and we need to clarify this and that is what they are planning to do. He said they are looking to change the meeting schedule and have more meetings.

14. Adjourn: J. Voccio made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 pm; A. Tanner seconded; and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary