



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

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Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2022
6:30pm via Zoom and in person
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center

Present: Lou Brodeur, Joe Voccio and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary
Absent w/notice: Austin Tanner

Also Present: Sandy Brodeur and Jenn Nemeth

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Katherine B. Brodeur
TOWN CLERK BROOKLYN, CT

1. **Call to Order:** L. Brodeur called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Approve Minutes:** J. Voccio made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/27/22 as presented. L. Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
3. **Public Comment:** Jenn Nemeth reads an oral statement:

I am addressing the Board this evening because there was no response to my email on Monday November 7 asking that six action items be placed on this evening's agenda. Subsequently I am still requesting the items in that email be added to tonight's agenda or the next Board of Selectman meeting.

Last week my husband, Matt, and I met with First Selectman Tanner at length regarding the ongoing lawsuit issues, and then he and Matt spoke on the phone on Monday as a follow-up. While we very much appreciate any time or attention that is given to our case we also see a great value in transparency and having on the record discussions as well.

Because my written statement regarding the action items is lengthy, and because I already read them out loud last night at the Fire Commissioners meeting, I will submit them in the form of a written statement in addition to the comments I have for the record this evening.

Tonight, I want to simply plead with the members of the Board as humans. I want you to forget about our businesses for a second, I want you to forget about the lawsuit. I would like you to look at me in the eyes and see me as a person. I am a mother of two amazing young boys, I am a wife, daughter, granddaughter, aunt, friend, active community member and more.

In addition to running our two businesses, raising two boys, navigating a pandemic and post

pandemic complete economic disaster, I am the caregiver for my father and grandmother who both have dementia, I also look after my 84- year-old grandfather and my mother who has a serious autoimmune disease.

I'm not here looking for sympathy on my personal situation BUT when you factor in all the curve balls life throws at someone and THEN you throw in two frivolous lawsuits (it's important to remember here this is not the first lawsuit that was brought against us by the Brooklyn Fire District and the East Brooklyn Fire Department) then you add in the 83 days that the Department members blocked our back parking lot access, then go ahead throw in all the times the police were called, when our building permits were pulled, the revenue lost due to losing our parking space and lot (and more), all the gobs and gobs of money that flows right into the pockets of all the lawyers involved in this, and on and on...

We have not one single clue what the goal of the Brooklyn Fire District/EBFD was when they started this harassment/lawsuit against us, nor what it still is today. But if the goal was to completely ruin our lives, then I am here tonight on public record to formally announce that they have succeeded.

We are completely done – to be specific: I actually used the words “dead inside” in therapy the other day. I have sufficiently reached the part in this trauma where I don't even want to die anymore because I'm walking around dead inside every god damn day.

Owning The Ice Box had been a dream of mine for over twenty years. Now that dream is an absolute nightmare.

I will leave you tonight with the same message I gave Austin Tanner last week: Please just let us go. Help us wake up from this nightmare. We can't even sell our property and leave because of pending suit. We can't run from town under the cover of darkness because they have us in a position where we literally can't leave even if we want to. We are being held hostage here in the unrelenting purgatory of this never-ending lawsuit.

The last thing I want to mention before I give up my time is regarding our liquor license at the shops. I am assuming that you all know that we applied for and were approved for a Provisional Liquor Permit by all pertinent departments in the Town of Brooklyn, as well as the State of Connecticut.

Now we have now been assigned a hearing in Hartford on December 8, because the Brooklyn Fire District President, William Wheaton Sr., has opposed our permit on the basis that we do not have enough parking. Yesterday we discussed this new development with our property attorney. Unfortunately, due to the nature of liquor license cases we must hire a specialized attorney for that hearing. We consulted him today. Oddly enough he was already familiar with the lawsuit against us

and described it as a collateral attack on our business that has zero to do with our liquor permit. Then he sent us a contact requiring a \$2,000 retainer an invoice for the first \$400 hour.

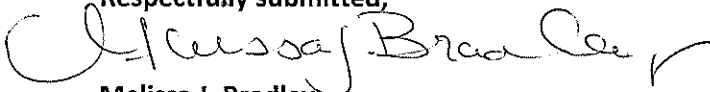
Unlike the Brooklyn Fire District, we do not have \$183,886 plus in combined bank accounts.

That is all I have for tonight. I am respectfully asking that this statement, my written statement and supporting documents be entered into the public record for this meeting and I thank this Board for your time.

A written statement with supporting documents was submitted to the board. All documents attached to minutes.

4. **Discussion on Financials:** No discussion
5. **Discussion/Action on Joint Representation with the Town and BOE:** J. Voccio made a motion to adopt the resolution before the board to agree that the Board of Selectmen have representation from Shipman & Goodwin for the purposes of the bid protest on the HVAC proposal additionally once acted upon by the Board of Education, we agree to engage Shipman & Goodwin and we authorize the engagement. L. Brodeur seconded the motion. Complete resolution attached. Motion carried 2-0.
6. **Approve Bills:** L. Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1213 dated 11/10/2022 in the amount of \$104,693.56. J. Voccio seconded the motion. L. Brodeur would like to see a break down of the CINTAS bills and what is spent at each location. Motion carried 2-0.
7. **Other Business:** The board will try and schedule a special meeting next week to discuss Jenn Nemeths comments tonight and past meetings.
8. **Public Comment:** None
9. **Adjourn:** J. Voccio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. L. Brodeur seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 6:51pm.

Respectfully submitted;



Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary