

**Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
4:00pm via Zoom &  
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Austin Tanner, Lou Brodeur, Joe Voccio and Sara Deshaies, substitute Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Sandy Brodeur and other members of the public

1. Call to Order – A. Tanner called the meeting order at 4pm.
2. Approval of Minutes: 12/8/22 – L. Brodeur made a motion to approve as presented. J. Voccio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Appointments:
  - a. Conservation, First Selectman Appointment: Reappoint Diane Wimmer, term 2/12/2026; Jeannine Noel respectfully declined reappointment. Need a replacement.
  - b. Planning & Zoning: Reappoint Sara Deshaies, term 1/1/2027; Reappoint Seth Pember, term 1/1/27. L. Brodeur made a motion to appoint Sara Deshaies and reappoint Seth Pember both with terms ending 1/1/27. J. Voccio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
  - c. Recreation: Reappoint Harry Adams, term 1/1/2027. L. Brodeur made a motion to reappoint Harry Adams with term ending 1/1/27. J. Voccio seconded. A. Tanner stated he is very helpful and has done a good job. Motion passed 3-0.
  - d. Ethics: Reappoint Brandon Zurek, term 6/26/2025. L. Brodeur made a motion to reappoint Brandon Zurek with a term ending 6/26/25. J. Voccio seconded. A. Tanner stated the meetings have resumed. Motion passed 3-0.
  - e. WPCA: Reappoint Derek Lindia, term 1/29/2028; Robert Kiley respectfully declined reappointment. J. Voccio made a motion to reappoint Derek Lindia with term ending 1/29/28. L. Brodeur seconded. A. Tanner stated Derek will be Chair, the Selectmen are thankful. Motion passed 3-0. A. Tanner respects R. Kiley continued input. J. Voccio made a motion to accept Robert Kiley's decline of reappointment with sincere regrets. L. Brodeur seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
  - f. ZBA: Reappoint Adam Brindamour, term 1/1/2028. L. Brodeur made a motion to reappoint Adam Brindamour with a term ending 1/1/28. J. Voccio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
  - g. Eastern Regional Tourism District: Appoint Lori Corriveau – up to three-year term. A. Tanner stated that Debbie Tanner is willing to turn the position over to Lori Corriveau. First Selectman appointment. No vote needed. J. Voccio is glad the Town has representation there.
5. Discussion on Financials – No comments or questions.
6. Approve Updated Resolution for CIF Grant-Sidewalk Project – Town will resubmit the grant for sidewalks from Town Hall to Fairgrounds. Letters sent to Doug Dubinski, Mae Flexer and Pat Boyd requesting letters of support. J. Voccio made a motion to apply for the funds. L. Brodeur seconded. J. Voccio added that the townspeople voted to allow First Selectman to apply for any and all grants applicable for the Town. A. Tanner expressed confidence in this resubmittal. Motion passed. 3-0.

7. Discussion on Request for Paid Firemen – L. Brodeur made a motion to table this item to the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A. Tanner seconded. J. Voccio has a concern that this item may be an end run around the fire commissioners. There is a short-term and long-term need to address the volunteer/staffing issues. There needs to be more specifics about this item and many questions still exist. J. Voccio stated that the short term needs to be addressed as triage while working on a long-term solution. Other towns have successful models. Laura Giannelli, a resident asked if there has been any investigation into whether or not we need both departments. She then asked if there was a study and if funds have been set aside. A. Tanner stated not at this time. There was talk about using ARPA funds but unsure how that would work. Laura asked for elaboration on what ARPA means. A. Tanner explained that it is the government funds distributed to Towns. She then asked if the Town was soliciting consultants. A. Tanner stated the Town is looking at opportunities. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. No decisions will be made. Laura asked if there were any estimates. A. Tanner stated not at this time. J. Voccio stated that due to the geography and population of the Town it might be better to have apparatuses in different locations. J. Voccio gave an example of a recent fire where Danielson was the first on scene. Mutual aid is an important need and shouldn't be measured solely by call volume. Laura Giannelli then asked if there is compensation for the mutual aid. J. Voccio stated no, it's just a mutual understanding. Laura Giannelli asked if Danielson was first does that mean there is a staffing issue at East Brooklyn. J. Voccio said not necessarily. Laura Giannelli then asked if Mortlake did not respond. J. Voccio stated that they were also present. He's not sure of the sequence of arrival. Motion to table passed 3-0.
8. Discussion on January Meeting Agenda Item: South Main St. Dispute – J. Voccio had expressed an interest in including the fire dept and the Ice Box people together. With an open lawsuit it may be hard. He asked A. Tanner what conversations have taken place and maybe set expectations for the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A. Tanner agreed. A. Tanner has talked to the parties involved separately. A. Tanner is trying to reach out to the attorney. J. Voccio is hoping that everyone can be thoughtful in concerns and responses. A. Tanner recognized Jenn Nemeth for comment. Jenn Nemeth thinks the January 12<sup>th</sup> is unnecessary on her end at this point. She stated that her public comment was emailed to A. Tanner and M. Bradley. Their attorneys are in negotiations to continue the suit.
9. Approval of Bills –
  - a. L. Brodeur made a motion to approve voucher #1300 12/22/22 \$376.78, Town credit card. J. Voccio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
  - b. L. Brodeur made a motion to approve voucher #1299 12/29/22 \$15.95, mileage for Melissa Bradley. J. Voccio seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.
  - c. L. Brodeur made a motion to approve voucher #1298 12/29/22 \$18,649.61, Capital voucher for drive motors for Mortlake Fire Station. J. Voccio seconded. A. Tanner asked if installed, L. Brodeur said yes. J. Voccio asked how long it took to receive them. L. Brodeur stated it took a couple months. Motion passed 3-0.
  - d. L. Brodeur made a motion to approve voucher #1297 12/22/22 \$2,526.29, gas and diesel fuel. J. Voccio seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
  - e. L. Brodeur made a motion to approve voucher #1296 12/29/22 \$397,196.66, regular monthly invoice. J. Voccio seconded. L. Brodeur said that in the past employee names were provided to track replacement garments. Motion passed 3-0.
10. Other Business – A. Tanner stated that a generator overage will be addressed at the next meeting and possibly Board of Finance as well. J. Voccio asked how Darby Road paving go? It went well and is smooth.

11. Public Comment – Jenn Nemeth sent an email to A. Tanner and M. Bradley with her public comments. A. Tanner will forward to Selectmen.

Mike Podzaline, chair of Board of Fire Commissioners stated that a proposal has been offered to address the short term regarding the tabled Discussion on Request for Paid Firemen. He also stated that both companies should include this funding in their budget requests. He believes any discussion about a study is side stepping the Commissioners. He invited anyone interested to attend their meetings. Laura Giannelli asked where that study was discussed. M. Podzaline stated it is in the Fire Commissioners meeting minutes. A. Tanner asked if there was a formal study. M. Podzaline said it was discussed with the Fire Commissioners. He agrees that maybe there doesn't need to be a formal study. Three daytime staff is the basic proposal from experts. S. Brodeur stated her problem with the proposal is there is not structure underneath, who do they report to? M. Podzaline stated that decision is for the Fire Chief, Board of Selectmen and Human Resources to address that, not the Commissioners. He agrees the current structure needs to change. J. Voccio added that the subcommittee was formed to enhance retention and recruitment. He sees this as a crisis. The framework and dollar amount were critical to moving forward. He also stated whether a volunteer or paid resource there is a need to be sure they are available. S. Brodeur stated that a side effect of paid personnel is that volunteers stop coming. That was an experience in the past. M. Podzaline that if that deters a volunteer, that volunteer isn't there for the right reason. He spoke more plainly that the best solution is how best to serve the customer on the other end of the phone. Lt. Provost stated that East Brooklyn has weeded out bad volunteers. East Brooklyn needs the people and that are properly trained. L. Giannelli stated she would like only one fire department in town, she doesn't not see the need for it. She welcomes education into the reasoning for two. A. Tanner stated the issue needs to be addressed with urgency.

Kim Lombardy stated that paid fire fighters would be amazing. Also, there should be better proof and restrictions on applicants. She stated she forwarded some documentation to A. Tanner. A. Tanner stated he only received so newspaper clippings. She is going to send some court documentation to the First Selectmen. K. Lombardy also said that anyone could do the research on their own, it wouldn't take long. There is another case that is taking a bit longer to research and is another domestic violence case. K. Lombardy's stated that her home is served by East Brooklyn and she has made it clear that the Chief of East Brooklyn is not allowed on her property. Supposedly there was a joke made that East Brooklyn stated that would not go to her house at all. She shouldn't have to worry that the man who terrorized her family should ever be on her doorstep. She has information that there was no background check done on the individual in question. It is also unusual that he had the position before being a member of that department. She stated that she can send real paperwork to Lt. Provost if needed. She doesn't understand why men with wives and daughters don't think it's terrible for her to feel the way she does. A. Tanner thanked her for her comments but stated this is a personal issue and should not be discussed here. K. Lombardy argued that it is not a personal issue. It is a very real issue of safety. She has every right to know what is going to be done to make sure this person is never on her property. A. Tanner stated East Brooklyn is there to protect her family and home even if she doesn't want them to. K. Lombardy stated that regardless of what A. Tanner is saying Brian Peppin should not ever be on her property. A. Tanner thanked her for her comments. K. Lombardy stated that she will finish speaking to the attorney and reporter she has been speaking to. She stated that A. Tanner doesn't care. He found B. Peppin to be a man of integrity until K. Lombardy present him with the rest of the facts. She stated that A. Tanner told her that if she were his daughter, he wouldn't want him on the property. Now suddenly it changes because Lt. Provost is present. She stated that A. Tanner told her he took B. Peppin's word for

everything, which shocked her in the first place. A. Tanner stated it wasn't just B. Peppin's word. K. Lombardy stated that that was what A. Tanner had told her, that A. Tanner had spoken to him and he said it was all in the past. B. Peppin then went on Facebook and accused her of lying. Which was also relayed to A. Tanner. All of the documents she has gathered will be posted. K. Lombardy stated that for A. Tanner to tell her this is a personal matter and shove it under the rug is unacceptable. She made it very clear that B. Peppin is never to set foot on her property ever. She will not call him a man because a man would not do the things he has done to her family. Her daughter who couldn't open her blinds for two years. He sat in the bushes and listened to conversations. She had to leave her job and get a restraining order while he sat in court and said, "Yes, while she was at work my girlfriend and I harassed her". Then lied that he didn't text her, except she had all the messages on the cell phone. They were vile and disgusting. They couldn't be said out loud. But, she says, those are not concerns for this Board, that he will come to her property. She then addressed J. Voccio asking if he was aware that there are no real background check requirements. Lt. Provost does whatever he says he does. It's ludicrous. Her daughter does HR for a marketing company and they go back 15 years and also look for domestic cases because you don't want those people in public. A. Tanner thanked her for her comments and said they will look into this further. J. Voccio stated that this is what makes public comments difficult. They are instructed to hear comment and not engage in dialogue, but there needs to be an understanding that a matter like this is not for the Board of Selectmen to address or handle. If there is a special circumstance that would include a restraining order that would need to go through the Fire Commissioners. The Selectmen cannot override. They are not able to weigh in on matters that are one sided. K. Lombardy stated she understands that. She did so much research that she actually talked to the Fire Commission safety people and they confirmed that this Board has no control over them. She stated that if the Town had paid fire department this Board could hold them accountable. She stated this isn't just her against him. If he is there, what else is there? The entire State is this way. She's not the only one to ask able background checks. J. Voccio stated it's not unreasonable but at the same time trying to argue this out in a public comment session is not the best forum for this. L. Giannelli asked if the gentleman from east Brooklyn say they are now doing background checks. A. Tanner cut off further public comments. J. Voccio offered to put this item on a future agenda if so desired.

12. Adjourn – L. Brodeur made a motion to adjourn. A. Tanner seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Deshaies,  
Substitute Recording Secretary