



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, January 12, 2023
6:30pm via Zoom &
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 JAN 18 PM 4:31
RECORDED VOL. PAGE
Katherine Brodeur
TOWN CLERK BROOKLYN, CT

Present: Austin Tanner, Joe Voccio, Lou Brodeur and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary
Also Present: Sandy Brodeur, Jenn Nemeth, Matt Nemeth, JoAnn Gerardi-Voccio, Carrie Juhasz Horton

1. **Call to Order:** A. Tanner called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.
2. **Approve Minutes:** L. Brodeur made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/29/22 & 1/10/23 as presented. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Appointments/Resignations**
Appoint William Green to Conservation, regular member, term 2/12/2024: A. Tanner states Mr. Green requested to serve on the Board of Fire Commissioners. A. Tanner felt this would be a conflict because he is a cousin to Jenn Nemeth. After discussion, he agreed to serve on Conservation. L. Brodeur made a motion to appoint William Green to Conservation as a regular member with a term expiring 2/12/2024. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
Bob Kiley respectfully declined reappointment to WPCA: A. Tanner made a motion to accept Bob Kiley's resignation with regret. L. Brodeur seconded the motion. A. Tanner states he was a good member and did a lot of work on the Killingly project. Motion carried 3-0.
William Wheaton Sr. resigned as President of the Brooklyn Fire District: No action needed
5. **Review Financial Reports:** L. Brodeur questions why some of the services have not been paid. They were funded in the budget and approved. A. Tanner will check with the finance department.
6. **Discussion on Fire Study:** There was a study done 20-25 years ago. A consultant was hired and met with the Chiefs. They were not interested in merging the departments. A. Tanner states he is not against the study. L. Brodeur feels paid staff is needed in the stations. He suggests we prove they are needed and go from there. A. Tanner will speak with John Filchak at NECCOG. This may qualify for ARPA funds.
7. **Discussion on LOCIP funds – Generator:** The price is \$100,000 more than originally quoted. A. Tanner believes LOCIP funds can be used to make up the difference. J. Voccio made a motion to authorize Austin to finalize the pricing for the generator to service all three buildings and the source be LOCIP funds to supplement the funding. L. Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

8. **Discussion on Drug Testing CDL Employees:** CIRMA has been providing this service since 1995. There is a gentleman in Town who does it. A. Tanner states Tommy has not been happy with CIRMA. CIRMA charged \$100 and this company said they would match it. A. Tanner will move forward with changing companies.
9. **Discussion on Memorial Day Committee:** A. Tanner will schedule a meeting on 1/26/23. A. Tanner spoke with Renee and she is available to attend. Mike Gaudreau will be invited as well.
10. **Discussion on CIF Grant:** This has been resubmitted for the sidewalks.
11. **Discussion on STEAP Grant:** This was awarded, just waiting on paperwork from the State to come back.
J. Voccio suggests the South Street Park project could be eligible for Small Cities grant. A. Tanner will check into this.
12. **Single Family Dwellings:** No discussion
13. **Review/Approve Bills:** L. Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1332 dated 1/12/2023 in the amount of \$105,537.83. J. Voccio seconded the motion. The electricity at 61 South Main St. garage is high. A. Tanner has looked at this. He will investigate it again. Motion carried 3-0.
L. Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1336 dated 1/12/2023 in the amount of \$80,900. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
L. Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1335 dated 1/12/2023 in the amount of \$2,969. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
L. Brodeur made a motion to approve bill voucher #1330 dated 1/11/2023 in them amount of \$193.57. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
14. **Other Business:** The salary study is still in progress. No date available for when it will be finished.
L. Brodeur volunteers to serve on the capital committee this year. A. Tanner states it is appointed by the Board of Finance.
15. **Public Comment:** A. Tanner limits public comment to 5 minutes per person.

**Public Statement of Jennifer Nemeth
of Selectman's Meeting January 12, 2023**

I wanted to state for the public record that we are happy to hear about another positive step for the town with the resignation of Brooklyn Fire District President William Wheaton.

We do want to advise that we are still in the grievance process regarding our FOIA request. We have yet to revive any response from the Brooklyn Fire District OR anyone from the town hall for any of our requests.

We maintain our position that the Brooklyn Fire District is a public agency, and Mr. Wheaton's notice of resignation from his town position is further evidence of that.

We are still requesting the mortgage documents from either the Brooklyn Fire District Directly and or the Town Hall itself.

I also want to publicly congratulate Melissa Bradley on moving on to greener pastures at the end of the month. I do not know Melissa personally but have benefited from her work greatly. Her departure leaves big shoes for the town to fill. A task I hope they thoughtfully accomplish given all that is going on in town right now. Congratulations Melissa, and best of luck.

Thank you all for your time.

Carrie Juhasz Horton questions the financing and reporting of mortgages for the East Brooklyn Fire district that houses the East Brooklyn Fire Department. Also, why this fire house is allowed to reside outside of its district which was confirmed by Jana. Referencing the Independent Special Taxing in Connecticut Report: Page 10 lists all the things a special taxing district needs to comply with. The first one is Freedom of Information. East Brooklyn is on the State of CT's list of special taxing districts. They also have to have public records and store and handle them in a specific way. There are many questions and even if the Town is not required to do so, they should perform an audit on the district. Background checks should be done also, especially if there is going to be paid fire staff, which I totally support.

Joe Voccio states there are a lot of allegations, and they need to be investigated and put to bed, this may involve our town attorney. This misinformation is going to continue if we don't.

Matt Nemeth states it's not misinformation, it's the lack of transparency and thank you for stating it needs to be looked into.

16. Adjourn: L. Brodeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Voccio seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted;



Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary