

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES
July 1, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman William R. Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: William R. Davidson, First Selectman; Howard Lasser, Selectman; George Walker, Selectman; William Leverage, Controller; members of the public; Emily Cole Prescott, Recording Secretary

MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Davidson made the following announcements.

- Brookfield Matters will be issued by the end of the week, and the regular schedule should be resumed by August.
- CT Alert– Mr. Davidson asked that everyone look at the home page banner for alert information. Mr. Davidson stated that the Town needs to communicate to residents in emergencies for their benefits.
- CT Intelligence – "If you see something, say something" – Mr. Davidson noted that this system is a self-reporting online form, the purpose of which is to alert authorities of any issues. He also asked residents to view the logo for this system on the Town's homepage of the website.
- Brookfield Farmers Market– Mr. Davidson stated that this market has been in business for the past two weeks, and it takes place every Friday afternoon from 4-6 PM in front of the Senior Center. Mr. Davidson urged residents to come out to the market. He noted that the time of the market was scheduled especially to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Concert Series.
- Brookfield Fire Department fire billing – Mr. Davidson explained that if there are fire charges for fire fighting at residential homes, the fire insurance of the homeowners' insurance policy would be charged by the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Davidson noted that many homeowners' insurance policies cover fire department billing. Mr. Davidson assured that no resident will be charged directly for the services of the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department if there are not proper provisions in an owner's insurance policies. Mr. Davidson reviewed the types of incidents and the general prices for the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department's billing. Mr. Lasser asked what type of revenue the fire department plans to collect and how they propose to use this funding. Mr. Davidson noted that the Selectmen should follow up as to what the expected revenues are and for what the fire department plans to use these revenues. Mr. Davidson noted that this item should be added to next month's agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE: CT State Veterans Memorial – Mr. Davidson noted that this CT State Veterans Memorial is an agenda item because the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial, Inc. is asking that Brookfield buy a paver for \$150 that will be added to the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial. Mr. Davidson noted that this memorial is being done collaboratively with the Connecticut General Assembly. Mr. Lasser asked that the form be posted on the Town's website.

Mr. Davidson also noted the three pieces of correspondence received from the Planning Commission.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS: Controller William Leverence presented the financial results.

NEW ITEMS

BROOKFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION: Colette Sturm, President of the Board of Education Foundation, presented the yearly update. Ms. Sturm noted that there were total grants awarded for programs in the amount of \$17,000 to enrich the Brookfield Community. She outlined some of the programs that were established by these grant funds. Mr. Davidson asked that the thanks from the Selectmen be passed on to the Brookfield Education Foundation.

UPDATES

POLICE UNION CONTRACT: Mr. Davidson stated that there was an arbitration award that was dated June 13, 2013 to settle long-standing negotiations with the Police Union, dating back to 2011. Mr. Davidson noted that usually the contract is a four-year contract, but that would require both parties to enter into negotiations soon, so the parties have agreed to make the contract a four-year contract that will expire on June 13, 2014. Mr. Lasser stated that this contract is a good contract for everyone. Mr. Davidson stated that one of the goals was to align the medical insurance that the Police Department has to be the same insurance that the Town employees and Teachers receive. Mr. Davidson noted that the Town was also successful with some management rights issues. **Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the arbitration award dated June 13, 2013. Mr. Lasser seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

PARKS REVITALIZATION PROGRAM: Mr. Davidson noted that about 150 people came to the public hearing that was held last Wednesday. At that public hearing, there was a detailed presentation of the Parks Revitalization Program, which was strongly supported by those in attendance. Mr. Davidson noted that there was not one negative public comment made during the entire public hearing. Two suggestions received from the public regard how to make the public crossing at Candlewood Lake Road safer, and how to make the internal parking lot between the fields and basketball courts safer. Mr. Davidson noted that both of these concepts are now being included as part of the proposed plan. Mr. Davidson stated that there is some research being done about how pedestrian safety on the Western Connecticut State University's White Street crossing is handled, so that the plan of that pedestrian area may be copied. Mr. Davidson also explained that there is some work being done on the parking between the fields and basketball court to allow safer pedestrian access. Mr. Davidson noted that there was also strong support for the installation of an additional basketball court. Mr. Davidson noted that the architects reviewed one of the resident's suggestions to move the proposed basketball court by ninety degrees to allow for more room to install an additional basketball court, but after the architects reviewed this proposal, the cost of the work would be too high. Mr. DiPinto stated that there is a healthy contingency in place for this project, and none of the traffic issues should add to the contingency amount. Mr. Davidson stated that R. Tedesco, the Town Engineer, is working to get some further information about the cost associated with the traffic crossing. Mr. Davidson explained that the system used at WCSU's White Street crossing is a pedestrian actuated symbol with many flashing lights, which at WCSU, does create a safer environment. Mr. Davidson assured that the contingency amount is enough to cover the costs of these traffic safety issues.

The Selectmen discussed the installation of an additional turf field. In regard to the synthetic field, two-thirds of the cost of the construction of the synthetic field is underground, and Mr. DiPinto stated that he would estimate that the cost to replace the turf would be about \$200,000 to replace the top of the field. Mr. DiPinto explained that this plan would definitely decrease the costs of maintenance. Mr. DiPinto noted that the turf fields are used year-round without a concern for weather. Mr. Lasser asked Mr. DiPinto if the existing demand would be met if the extra field was to be included in the plan, and Mr. DiPinto responded that he believes that this plan proposes a way to not have to buy more lands for additional fields.

Mr. DiPinto noted that he believed that there was support from the public, especially for the higher amount of money to complete both fields at one time. Mr. Davidson noted that the cost to add the extra field in the future would be much more expensive than if done at the same time as the currently proposed field. Mr. Davidson noted that there was a poll done at the end of the public hearing, asking who would prefer to complete two artificial fields and one artificial and one regular. Mr. Davidson noted that those who voted almost unanimously voted to have the two artificial fields. Mr. Lasser noted that he believes that both artificial fields should be done, and he would be in favor of recommending the 5.3 million gross amount. **Mr. Lasser made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance an appropriation of \$5.3 million, a net cost of borrowing of \$4,550,000 for the purposes of the Parks Revitalization Program. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend the Parks Revitalization Program to the Planning Commission for an 8-24 referral. Mr. Lasser seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Lasser moved to schedule a special town meeting on July 18th at 7:30 PM for the Parks Revitalization Program in the Brookfield High School Auditorium; if the Auditorium is not available, the town meeting will be held in either the Town Hall Facilitates or the Whisconier Middle School Facility. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

WPCA 2014 BUDGET & SEWER AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT: Mr. Davidson stated that this item will be delayed until next month.

CELL TOWER – HOMELAND TOWERS PROPOSAL: Mr. Davidson noted that the Selectmen have looked at the lease numerous times, and the proposal is for the construction of a cell tower behind the brush dump on Pocono Road. The lease is 55 years long. The projected revenue for the Town could be somewhere in the range of 2.9 mill – 3.5 mill over that period of time. The secondary benefit is to the emergency services and communications will be on that tower. Mr. Davidson stated that he would like to thank Pete Peterson who handled the daily negotiations with Homeland Towers. **Mr. Lasser made a motion to approve the Brookfield Towers and Ground Lease agreement and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

MEADOWBROOK MANOR: Mr. Davidson noted that the DEEP has stated that perhaps they may need to re-evaluate the criteria for the rainfall in the area. HVCEO is working on a mitigation study for all of the Towns that are part of HVCEO to determine where the most serious mitigation hazards are located. Meadowbrook will most likely rank highly on that list, and if it does there will be opportunities for federal funding.

LIBRARY COTTAGE: Mr. Davidson stated that a septic system has been planned out with the help of a local contractor, and has been approved by the Town Sanitarian. Mr. Davidson stated that approval from the Department of Transportation needs to be acquired for the location of the driveway off of Route 25. Mr. Davidson also noted that all of the plans will be reviewed by the Historic District Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES: 06/03/13, 06/14/13, 06/19/13

NEW HIRE REPORT: Richard Clark, Part-Time Custodian

SELECTMEN APPROVAL FOR REOUTINE MATTERS: Residential Lease Agreement – 8 Nabby Road

BOND RELEASES:

- Excavation – Del Mar Drive #02-15-12 - \$750 Release
- Zoning Commission – 360 Federal Road, #200900068 - \$60,040.10 Final Release
- Inland Wetlands Commission – 62 Arrowhead Road, #200700847 Planting Bond - \$1,700.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION: Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lasser seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

ZONING COMMISSION BOND: Mr. Davidson made a motion to add to the agenda item 4e, which is a bond release for 200 Federal Road, also known as Costco, [and to release] the amount of \$2,564,984.88. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Davidson noted that there is a balance of \$250,000 that will be retained for remaining work on the site, specifically the issues at the top of the hill that need to be rectified.

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Lasser read the names of the appointments:

- Bill Brown, Candlewood Lake Authority, Effective 07/01/13 to 02/01/14
- Linda Taylor, Planning Commission – Alternate to Regular, effective 07/01/13 to 12/02/13
- Joanne Messer, Library Board of Trustees – Alternate to Regular, effective 07/01/13 to 02/01/16
- Ilga Parris, Library Board of Trustees – Alternate, effective 07/01/13 to 02/03/14
- Alexandra Smolnik, Library Board of Trustees – Alternate, effective 07/01/13 to 02/03/14
- Reappointment of Brookfield Energy Committee Members: Johnny Burke, Peter Donnelly, Jack Ludwig and Marcia Wilkins, effective 07/01/13 to 07/01/16
- Reappointment of Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) Members: William Davidson, Town Representative and Tom Tibolla, Alternate Representative
- Francis Lollie, Deputy Zoning Enforcement Officer, effective 05/24/13 to 02/03/14

Mr. Davidson noted that the Zoning Commission had appointed F. Lollie on May 24, 2013, but the Charter requires that the appointments be approved by the Board of Selectmen. **Mr. Lasser made a motion to make the appointments as read. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Economic Development – Mr. Walker noted that some emails have been received by the Economic Development Chairman, who has some vacancies to be filled and some questions that he would like answered. Mr. Davidson noted that the budget does include money for a recording secretary for the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Davidson noted that he will be sure to have the three names of the people for appointments, which he will send to Mr. Walker. This item should be added to the August agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lasser made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Mr. Walker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.