



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN WARREN & WEST BROOKFIELD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

PRESENT: Mr. John A. Nason; Chairman, Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk and West Brookfield Selectboard Chairman, Mr. Daniel M. Bigda, Vice-Chair, Diane Vayda and Selectboard Clerk, Mr. David J. Pierce

ABSENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard; Vice-Chairman

ATTENDEES: See attached list

Opened the Meeting at 6:30 PM

Mr. Nason made a motion to open the meeting for Warren; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous at 6:30 PM. Mr. Bigda motioned to open the meeting for West Brookfield; second: Mr. Pierce – unanimous at 6:30 PM. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Schwenker, who will chair this evening's meeting.

TRANSPORTATION

As a continuation from the last joint meeting held on October 1, 2020, Dr. Kustigian contacted both Lizak Bus Service, Inc. and J.P. McCarthy & Sons, LLC, and requested additional financial information in accordance with Chapter 92, §12 of an Act Relative to Municipal Governance During the COVID-19 Emergency. Both Lizak and McCarthy have refused to do so and have provided written communication from their respective counsel. Dr. Kustigian provided copies to both Boards. West Brookfield is holding firm on not paying for services not rendered for transportation. They will pay for work that is done, again referencing a responsibility to the taxpayers. Dr. Kustigian reiterated that the result of reducing any assessment payment is a reduction for the school overall. Mr. Morgan highlighted the immediate need of forming a subcommittee as time is of the essence. Both Mr. Morse and Mr. Kirk (School Committee members) and Selectmen Dufresne and Pierce will sit at the table to discuss further. Mr. Dufresne, in order to be transparent, stated that he has met with Mr. Lizak and discussed the issue that is before us all tonight. The group will meet on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 5 PM in West Brookfield in order to keep the conversation moving forward. Mr. Schwenker stated that if the towns are going to go out to bid again, the bid would need to be out by January, and would need to go through various steps with final approval by the School Committee to move forward. Mr. Nason reminded all that we have elected officials (School Committee) so they can represent our residents. Dr. Kustigian will extend an invitation to both Mr. Lizak and Mr. McCarthy to the October 23rd meeting, however doubtful either will attend.

HEALTH INSURANCE

School Committee Chairman, Mr. Schwenker advised all that the Budget Subcommittee met with the Insurance Consultant at their meeting on October 5th, to which a lengthy and comprehensive report was provided. A full School Committee meeting (via Zoom) is scheduled for October 19th to discuss this subject matter. Letters were sent out to all appropriate bargaining units and expects a robust attendance. They will be discussing the insurance with possible votes on M.G.L. Chapter 32B, §§ 21-23.

Mr. Schwenker went further to explain the specific Chapters which are:

Section 21 – allows the School Committee to change without collective bargaining

Section 22 – allows for the GIC equivalent

Section 23 – changing to GIC

Dr. Kustigian urges all to attend in order to hear directly from the staff as to their concerns. The current plan is very advantageous to them and feel strongly about keeping their status quo. This is in exchange for their position of what they feel as being underpaid. Mr. Morse stated that GIC has many options available which all should be on the table.

HVAC

Mr. Schwenker discussed the utility costs for all three buildings which over the course of the year equates to a large portion of their operating budget. Mrs. Acerra recently added in the schools into the Green Communities program and an assessment of the buildings are underway. Mr. Schwenker asked if the Selectmen from both towns would be willing to work with the schools in using funds from the Federal Grant monies available due to COVID-10. Additional research and discussion will take place on this matter.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Bigda requested current student enrollment numbers however Dr. Kustigian stated that the numbers are not required to be submitted to the state until October 23rd. Mr. Bigda asked again for numbers that he is anticipating on submitting to which Dr. Kustigian stated that once confirmed (mid to late November), he will provide to all.

MEETING MINUTES (JOINT)

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020 made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Bigda – unanimous.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next joint meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 6:30 PM which West Brookfield will host. Mr. Bigda will Chair the meeting. Tentative agenda items for the evening will include Transportation and Health Insurance.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 8:11 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pierce; second: Mr. Bigda – unanimous at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



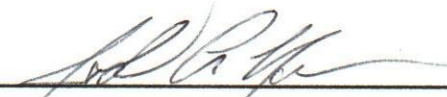
Rebecca Acerra

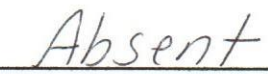
Administrative Secretary


BOARD OF SELECTMEN - WARREN & WEST BROOKFIELD

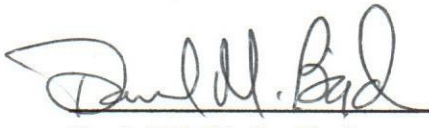
JOINT MEETING MINUTES - SIGNATORY SHEET

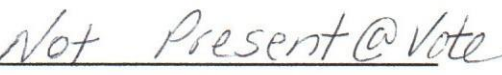
Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2020:



John A. Nason, III, Chairman
Warren


Marc W. Richard, Vice-Chairman


David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk


Daniel M. Bigda, Chairman
West Brookfield


Diane Vayda, Vice-Chairman


David J. Pierce, Clerk