

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, January 9th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Eric Troy (Turley Paper), Fire Chief Dennis Letendre, Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer, Jennifer Pollard, Greg Devine, Dr. Sheila Muir, Les Miller, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Michael McQueston to approve the Select Board Pole Hearing meeting minutes of December 12th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. and the Select Board meeting minutes of December 12th, 2022, 7:00 p.m., seconded by C. William Howland, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Dr. Sheila Muir –Dr. Muir thanked Joseph Chenevert for attending the strategic planning session last week. Update on the Post Graduate Students. Ms. Worthington was approached by Major McCarthy from the State Police Academy, he would like to use the gym space at the New Braintree Grade School from time to time for training. They are increasing the number of cadets and are adding some new programs for youth interested in joining the state police. They access the building from the back doors, so they are not entering from the front of the school, keeping it strictly in the gym and they use the facilities just outside of the gym. Dennis Letendre stated that the program assists the drug taskforce, and they watch cameras to relieve more troopers of those types of jobs to be on the road more.

The Post Graduate program is exploring some new potential opportunities such as starting a business of the post grad students own. Greg Devine said Westborough's public schools post grad program has a candy shop, he reached out to see how they went about setting that up? "Score", is a small business administration sponsored by the federal government and it helps develop a business plan. It is federal funding that assists programs such as running a business like a consignment shop or candy shop. Has a mentor to help with the business plan. Would be in the cafeteria because it has its own entrance so people would not need to walk into the school side of the cafeteria. Profits would go back into the program to make it a self-sustaining business. At least 4 new students will be coming up from the high school and 1 is aging out so there will be 12 students total next year. Preschool is still scheduled to come back here next year.

Greg asked if the Intern, Mike Toupin, has been helpful. Dennis said it has been going great, he helps at the fire station and Assessor's office. Mike does all the site files for the town. It shows any hazardous materials in the house, how many levels the house has,

everything needed to know in a fire fighter aspect. It's a program that shows how many permits or inspections have been done at specific locations and houses. He's entering every house in town into the file. At some point Dennis wants to have the ability to use IMC mobile, same as what police use, and would like to eventually be able to use it in his fire cruiser. Mike (Intern) would like to join the fire department. It was Mike's goal to go to school for computers and is becoming a junior fire fighter.

Dr. Shelia Muir inquired about the Green communities grant that came through to weatherize the school without spray insulation \$52,000. Joseph Chenevert stated the work that is getting updated are things like the window seals and the doors have gaps on the bottoms of the doors.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. No report was given.

Fire Department: Present. Verbal report was given by Fire Chief Dennis Letendre. Couple calls. It's been a quiet couple of months. Had fire alarm at state police pumping station, there is no street address for it so he is talking to the Assessor's about it. Received two grants, one is \$8,922.39. for personal protective equipment for new hires. The fire department just received the Safer grant. \$2,881.00 student awareness on fire education, \$1,777.00 senior safe grant education, which in order to get this grant Dennis needed to do a 40 hour program last fall so he could even apply for the grant then once you apply for it there's some steps. The first step is to buy materials to prepare to present public fire education, projectors, screens, tables and whatever you will need. Fire fighter application process opened today. Want to put in for a grant for a new air compressor and forestry truck. Joseph Chenevert asked if Dennis was going to get a used truck from West Brookfield. Need to come up with 5%.

Highway Department: Present. Verbal report was given Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer. The garage door openers are in and are working well. Salt shed is up and keeping salt dry. Eliminating yard spillage. Meeting with Fran sometime this week. Was wondering if he could have more clarification on the by law for the right away measurement either from the edge of the road or from the center line. Needs the wording clearer because multiple people are interpreting it differently. Need to talk to zoning board committee to see if they can change the wording.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not Present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Executive Secretary Report:

- Need approval from the Select Board for \$100 procurement officer designation fee. Michael McQueston made a motion to approve, and William Howland seconded, passed unanimously.
- Spoke to Marty Goulet regarding the flagpole being replaced on the town common. Shared Marty's number with Richard Ayer because Marty said that he could get the contractor to pull the pole out but then would need the highway department to use one of their trucks to move the flagpole. Richard suggested Ray Waugh may be able to help.

Select Board Reports:

- How do we go about the other trusses in the hall? Just needs to be repaired and we cannot use the debt exclusion money because it specifically said it's for the Main Hall. Would need to be a vote at a town meeting to do a transfer of the money. If ARPA money is left over from salt shed, need to find out what's left to see if we could use that money.
- Holly Haller submitted a letter of interest to move up as a zoning board member and in the letter suggested that Michelle Gallagher wants to move down to alternate. Joseph Chenevert and Michael McQueston stated that they do not have a letter from Michelle stating that she wants to make the change and so they do not want to make a decision off of only having a letter from one person.
- Summit solar is moving along, they had a surveyor measuring outside today.
- Suzor IT has not been assisting when tickets are being put in. May need to change IT providers because of multiple issues with not having internet or being able to get emails.
- Joseph Chenevert mentioned Mass Broad Band, the Select Board and town will need to determine if they are going to pay because they will be about \$40,000 short.
- Peter Larkin, when we were going to get a bill, but he said not until FY 24.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on the Salt Shed. Salt shed is all done.
- Update on the Town Hall insulation is completed. Insulation is all done.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, February 13th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Fire Chief Dennis Letendre, Andrea Letendre, Shelby Pollard, Jim Brown, Renee Gregoire, Glenn Merkel, Les Miller, Peggy Thompson, Jennifer Pollard, Joanne Thompson 7:01pm, Alfred Randall 7:05pm, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Michael McQueston to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of January 9th, 2023, seconded by C. William Howland, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Conservation Commission - Discussion on designation. Jim Brown voiced concerns for the conservation commission with new building policies. Jim stated that the Building Inspector told him that it is up to the Conservation Commission to find out if someone is building or not. No one is coming before the conservation commission. Jim said he would like name badges with photos on them so people know who they are and can prove they are who they say they are, especially when they are going to someone's property.

Assessors – New member appointment. Andrea Letendre said that Shelby showed interest in becoming an assessor and came to the last meeting in January for the assessors. Shelby was appointed by the Select Board until May 2023. Andrea mentioned that Claire Reavey's appointment is up this year and Andrea ran last year. Jessica Bennett states that if the Select Board appoints someone tonight for the Assessor's, the appointment ends May 1st, 2023. Then if Shelby runs again in May, it will be good for one year then after that if she runs again it will be good for 2 years. Ed Reed has resigned because he is moving. Michael McQueston made a motion to accept the appointment of Shelby Pollard and C. William Howland seconded, passed unanimously.

Can the grange use the hall for pig roast for November 11th, 2023.

Joanne Thompson asked for the Board of Health to have ID cards as well.

The parking lot lights are still not working.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

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Town Clerk: Not present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Present was Glenn Merkel. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. Report was given. About 4,000 calls since July.

Fire Department: Present. Fire Chief Dennis Letendre gave a verbal report. One cellar pump call, a couple fire alarm calls, and assisted Barre structure fire at Hartman's Herb Farm. Applied for the AFG grant and submitted that on Friday. Applied for new air compressor \$75,000 and the town's portion would be responsible for about 5% which is around \$3,500. The grant will probably not be rewarded until about this time next year and there's only about an 8-10% of getting the grant. Michael McQueston asked if the new system includes filters for all the breathing air. The air compressor will probably go in the red building, so it has enough room.

Highway Department: Not present. No report was given.

Council on Aging: Joanne Thompson was present. Verbal report was given. The police gave reports to COA on Scams that are going around. Joanne is going to be meeting with Renee Gregoire to get the message out to seniors on the website. Also wanted to get the newsletter on the website as well. Lynn Hartman came today to do crafts. There was discussion about doing the Ukrainian eggs again like they did last year and will be meeting tomorrow to talk about it. Tai Chi classes are still going on up at the church.

School Committee: Peggy Thompson was Present. Verbal report was given. Budgets have started to happen. Met with finance committee about a week ago to fill them in. 10% increase and it really can't happen. Working on a Superintendent search committee to try to get a new superintendent. Trouble in the New Braintree Grade School on the cold day, it got down to 32 degree and trouble with the bathrooms in the front hallway.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Andrea Letendre was Present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Jim Brown was Present. Verbal report was given.

Executive Secretary Report:

- One of the students from Smith Vocational School plans to drive themselves to and from the school every day next year. The mother stopped in and asked if there was a way that the student could be reimbursed for the cost of fuel because the town would be saving on not having to pay for the vanpool transportation for the student? Joseph Chenevert said Yes, they pay reimbursement for mileage and will start next year at the wage for mileage.
- Pacman Electrical installed a heater unit in the town hall men's room.

Select Board Reports:

- United Drain Cleaning Co. Inc. needed to come take care of the septic issue in the men's room because raw sewage was coming out of the floor drain when B.E.C. Plumbing was installing the urinal.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

- The Select Board opened the bids for the ceiling project in the Grand Hall.
 - Renaissance Builders - Came in with an estimated cost of \$43,765.00 Michael McQueston made a motion to accept Renaissance, Bill seconded the motion, passed unanimously.
 - Builders System, Inc. - Came in with an estimated cost of \$45,559. Plus, another \$1,300.
 - Matt Pollard stated he could not submit an estimate because he did not have the time to put it together.

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, February 27th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Jennifer Pollard, Les Miller, Raymond Trum-Searah 7:01 p.m., Kathleen Trum-Searah 7:01 p.m., LT. Kevin Landine 7:02 p.m., Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by C. William Howland to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of February 13th, 2023, seconded by Joseph A. Chenevert, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Town Hall Parking lot - Janet Pierce, stopped in to bring up concerns about the icy parking lot on Thursday.

Town Clerk - Would like the Select Board to approve opting out of mail in voting for town elections. C. William Howland made a motion to accept and Joseph A. Chenevert seconded, passed unanimously.

Kathleen Trum-Searah and Raymond Trum-Searah - Does not want to donate her land. Joseph Chenevert explained that an appraiser is coming out to appraise the land. Kathleen stated that the last time people came, they left their horse pasture fence a mess and she can't have sheep wire and barb wire fencing put back up. It needs to be a no climb fence. Raymond said that they put up a temporary wood fence for a while because they knew it was going to be taken back down and then once covid hit, no one came back to fix the fence. Kathleen would like to have the engineers come out and actually put stakes up of exactly what land they are considering. Joseph stated that it was an understanding that they already did come out and put stakes up. Kathleen stated that they put up little tags and they got blown everywhere but it does not show what land they are actually taking. Joseph said he thinks that the appraisers are coming out March 3rd, 2023. Kathleen stated that none of the Culverts on their road are taken care of, they are all plugged and backed up. Joseph explained that once the new road is put in, all those things will be taken care of, and the drainage will be taken care of as well. Kathleen would like some signs to slow people down such as letting people know there are horses.

Christmas in New Braintree – Jennifer Pollard was wondering if there had been any discussion about it. Joseph explained that the hall should be done by then.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Present. Report was given. LT. Kevin Landine stated that Stephen Houle, was the midnight patrolman and has resigned to go to the State police academy and started today. Andrew Ronnau will be replacing Stephen. Andrew has worked with the department as a part-time police officer for 5 years and has worked as a full-time dispatcher but will be resigning there to come to the department full-time. Andrew will be doing the Bridge Academy, which will save the department money. The man, that was in pursuit with police was already released. They are going to be short on overtime funds, they only have about \$2,000 left. On May 5th, the New Braintree Police department along with the Barre Police Department, will be hosting a chicken BBQ for the senior citizens covering 99.9% of the cost out of the police association. They will be doing the BBQ at the South Barre Rod and Gun club. The Police Department is officially asking the Hardwick Selectman and Finance Committee if they would be willing to support a debt exclusion to support a police station for Hardwick. After this last incident of fentanyl being brought all into the station and hall, the police department feels it's important to have their own space to keep everyone safe. The radar trailer came in and they are waiting on a new screen because it came broken.

Fire Department: Not present. No report was given.

Highway Department: Not present. No report was given.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Executive Secretary Report:

- The Hardwick/Ravine project is in motion and moving right on time.
- Jane Pfister said that DOER signed the competitive grant contract and the Green Communities funds are ready to begin being used.

Select Board Reports:

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The re-appointment of the Wiring Inspector, Donald Manseau, C. William Howland made a motion to accept, Joseph Chenevert seconded, and passed unanimously.

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., Joseph A. Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Sarah Burham, Craig Winer, Eric Troy, Police LT. Kevin Landine, Jennifer Pollard, Fire LT. Dave Morin, Les Miller, Fire Chief Letendre 7:01 pm, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Michael McQueston to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of February 27th, 2023, seconded by C. William Howland, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Sarah Burham and Craig Winer – Craig Winer was wondering if the town could plant some fast growing ever green trees to cover some of the salt shed on the town’s side of the land. Joseph said we have a 10% increase for the Quabbin Regional School budget and a 10% increase in the budget for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School so right now there are no available funds to plant trees at this point. Michael McQueston ensured that the Select Board is not against the idea of having trees planted there, it is just a funding issue. Craig asked if they were to buy the trees would the highway department plant them. Joseph stated that they would need to speak to the Highway Department because he is unsure of how much space is between the Salt shed and the wetlands. Nothing will happen until the snow is gone, said Joseph. Michael said that gravel was dumped there so he’s not sure what could even be grown there. LT. Kevin Landine was wondering if the finance committee could be informed about how much the evergreens will cost so if they have money at the end of the budget, finance could then let the Select Board know if there is any wiggle room for them to be able to use towards the trees. Craig there is always an old light that shines on their house and they were wondering if they could dim the light or shut it off. Joseph and Michael said, “no they can’t because it’s a security issue.”

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Kevin Landine was present. No report was given. Kevin Landine needs the Select Board to authorize deficits on winter roads. Michael made a motion to accept the deficits and C. William seconded, passed unanimously. Over in every department account and has a plan to approach it. The Finance Committee will have an answer in 3 weeks. Quabbin Regional School District right now is at 8.54%, that's \$142,000 more than last year. The Finance Committee is waiting on Pathfinder Vocation Technical High School to get back to them but it is looking like it'll be around 10%. That is the entire budget so it will be extremely tight.

Police Department: LT. Kevin Landine was present. Report was given. Breathalyzer is broken. \$1,000 fix or they will have a \$14,000 new breathalyzer. It will probably be New Braintree's turn because Hardwick bought them \$30,000 fingerprinting. In the budget is replacement for cars. The green community requires hybrids, but hybrids are not available. Joseph said he spoke to Green Communities and they put a waiver on hybrid cars because they have been unavailable but if they order them soon they will be underneath that. If the police are going to be ordering one anyways it should be soon. LT. Kevin Landine wants the Select Boards permission to lease, first payment is not due for first 6 months so the money will already be in the budget. Michael made a motion and C. William Howland seconded to order the hybrid police vehicle, passed unanimously.

Fire Department: Dennis was present. Report was given. A new Fees list to adopt for the fire department. The list has not been updated in at least 8 years or more. Discussed the changes in prices. See report. Michael made a motion to adopt the new fee list and C. William seconded, passed unanimously. The Fire department has given out 68 burning permits since the beginning of the year and he gave a report on the different permits they've given out. Since the last Select Board's meeting the Fire Dept. took 5 fire calls, 2 CO. alarms one had a high reading of CO. it was a faulty furnace that needed to be cleaned, 1 fire alarm, 1 mutual aid structural fire in North Brookfield for a garage fire, 1 car accident. Dennis asked the Select Board if the police are getting rid of a cruiser, he would like to take that one for his cruiser and keep his old one for Dave and the department to use instead of using their own vehicles. Dennis said he will put the command board into the other car. He would then switch the blue to red lights. It would be about \$1,000 dollars to transfer. It would only cost about \$400 a year to maintain. Michael made a motion to accept the transfer of police cruiser, C. William seconded, passed unanimously.

Highway Department: Not present. No report was given.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: They met just last week, and they are going to have the easter bunny on the fire truck April 2nd and will be having an easter egg hunt on the ground outside of the hall for kids. Earth day cleanup will be April 29th a dumpster will be up at the highway barn. Paint night on April 1st, hosted at the school, limited to 25 members, this is being paid for with a cultural grant, limited to only New Braintree residents. The sign up for the paint night is through Joe Salvatore.

Executive Secretary Report:

Select Board Reports:

Joseph stated that the ceiling tiles are ordered, and we are just waiting for them to come in, but the project is moving along. Was disappointed with the shingles not going back down. Plan on getting two more estimates. The electrician is putting in new lights that we are getting for free, they are only 2 inches thick instead of 4 inches. The new lights are covered under a grant and are replaceable whereas the others would not be replaceable.

Received an email from Dr. Muir stating that the school needs a select board member to be selected to participate in the collective bargaining process. Michael stated that he can probably do it but needs to double check. The debt schedule did not change much Kevin Landine said.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, March 27th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Jennifer Pollard, Richard Ayer, Dennis Letendre late 7:10 pm, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Michael McQueston to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of March 13th, 2023, seconded by C. William Howland, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. No report was given.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Dennis Letendre was present. Report was given. The Hose testing went well. Last Tuesday night they did pump training with the forestry truck, and it wouldn't pull draft. They re-did the packing in it, but sparks and smoke came out, it sprung two other leaks. After discussing with Kevin Landine, he told Dennis to get a price. Dennis said it would cost around \$20,000-\$25,000 for a new pump. One of the vendors said if Dennis had a flatbed truck because someone cancelled their skid unit the other day, he could sell it for \$29,500. Kevin said the finance committee could find money if the Select Board approves it tonight. Michael McQueston made a motion to accept the purchase of a new pump; C. William seconded, passed unanimously. Dennis is looking to get Fire LT. Dave Morin a cell phone for the next fiscal year, wondering if they could start that a couple months early so

that his personal phone is not going crazy. A couple of Brush fires last week but in North Brookfield not in New Braintree.

Highway Department: Richard Ayer is Present. Verbal report was given. Richard said that the highway department is going through all the highway equipment to update everything. Richard mentioned during the heavy snowstorm recently, they lost the transmission on the 2017 One ton truck. Richard apologized for the towing bill from when it got stuck 2 storms ago. Michael McQueston mentioned that it was not anyone's fault because the ground was soft. Joseph Chenevert mentioned that the Select Board voted last Select Board meeting to approve the overspend for the highway winter roads account. People stole the weight signs on Unitas rd. Michael asked if the posts were being taken too. Richard said he thinks that the posts are still there. Richard said that it has been 8 weeks since the highway dept. is still waiting on flashing stop sign, coming from Rhode Island. Richard said that he has been working on a grant to pave old turnpike rd. and he's almost done with it and will be bringing it to the Executive Secretary to input all the data electronically. The Hardwick/Ravine Rd. Project is moving along right on time.

Council on Aging: Not present. Verbal report was given. They would like to hold the Strawberry festival on June 10th, 2023. Jennifer Pollard mentioned that the discussion was it appears that elderly people are still being conscious of covid so they thought it would be a low turnout if it was a sit-down meal. They felt that they would have a better turn out if they did take out. Joseph Chenevert mentioned the senior holiday dinner that will be on the 10th and 11th of November 2023. Jennifer mentioned that the Tri parish sent a check for using the kitchen for the Hardwick fair baked potatoes, but the check was never cashed so she was wondering why. Joseph Chenevert stated she should ask Janet Pierce the Tax collector why the check was not cashed.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Dennis Letendre present. Verbal report was given. Dennis said that the Easter bunny will be on a fire truck from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. and from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. will be the egg hunt. Saturday night is paint night at school. April 29th, 2023, town wide clean up.

Executive Secretary Report:

- Update on the water cooler for the library. The Executive Secretary contacted W.B. Mason regarding a water cooler. It would not be covered under the town hall's

agreement. The library would need to have a separate contract and be responsible for their own 5 gallon water supply. It would cost \$157.38 for a 37-inch water cooler with hot and cold valve but they are out of stock. It would be \$255.00 for a 38-inch water cooler with a hot and cold valve.

- Tom Stott, the hall custodian left a note that he would be willing to do the shredding for a couple hours a week instead of hiring a shredding company. The Select Board stated no because it could burn out the shredder at the hall and would cost too much money to fix. It would be safer, cheaper and would save money to have pro-shred come to shred the many boxes from different departments.

Select Board Reports:

- Signatures required for approving the over drafted winter funds that were approved in the last Select Board Meeting.
- The Building Inspector would like the Select Board to approve the new fee list. Michael made a motion to approve the fee list, C. William seconded it, passed unanimously.
- Assessment is going up again for Pathfinder.
- Letter from Beth Olson stating that her son will be driving himself to and from Smith Vocational school.
- The Building Inspectors rate is going up next year.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, April 24th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer, Police LT. Kevin Landine, Jennifer Pollard, Turley Newspaper Eric Troy, Les Miller, School Committee Peggy Thompson, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Michael McQueston to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of April 10th, 2023, seconded by C. William Howland, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **“Just for Takings” Hardwick/Ravine Rd. Project** - Vote required. There is one permanent easement and there are four temporary easements. The landowners are Raymond A. Trum-Searah, Kathleen Trum-Searah, Richard and Ellen Glidden, Peter Imbier, Natalie Imbier, Sarah Monson, Joseph Monson, and Timothy Monson. Michael McQueston made a motion to accept the “Just for Takings”, C. William Howland seconded, passed unanimously. Executive Secretary, Erin Ballard (notary public), witnessed the signatures of all Select Board members and notarized the documents.
- **C. William Howland** – Tonight is C. William Howland’s last Select Board meeting. He was given an achievement certificate thanking him for his years of service to the town of New Braintree.
- **Peggy Thompson** – Asked if the town could continue to plant daffodils around the town. LT. Kevin Landine was wondering about getting bunting decorations to hang up on the building for Memorial Day and July 4th.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Kevin Landine present. Verbal report was given. The Broadband bill is \$342,000, they only have \$106,000 from the commonwealth, eventually the town will have \$306,000. We could just pay the \$106,000 for just this year then pay another payment next year. Broadband would like to set up a meeting with both Kevin and Joseph Chenevert, both said that they could try to do Wednesday or Friday morning of this week. If not those days, the second week in May. The estimate for the boiler at the school is around \$50,000-\$60,000. The Select Board approved the \$44,000 left over ARPA money to go towards the boiler. The Finance committee is meeting the week after the elections to start the budget process. The board is fine with the out of district transportation being paid to the student driver. It will be about \$8,000 and the town will be saving about \$40,000. Budgets are due in by May 5th at 4 p.m. A number was not included in last year's health insurance, so the town is going to be short about \$18,000. Joseph stated that the regular insurance is going up 6.7% so it's going to be about \$3,400 more than what is budgeted.

Police Department: Police LT. Landine was present. Report was given. There were 8 arrests, 27 citations, and 3 crashes. The radar trailer has been deployed and must be put out 3 times a year for 3 years on Prouty rd. and Barre rd. Then they must supply the data to see if there are any changes. The police will be hosting a Chicken BBQ on May 5th for senior citizens. The new police cruiser is being built. Detective Kyle Lareau resigned and moved on to work for the Spencer Police Department. He has a sick time buy out that will be coming out of New Braintree funds in the amount of \$5,000, it will come out of his line item. The job has been posted for about a month but there have been no applicants.

Fire Department: Not present. No report was given.

Highway Department: Richard Ayer was present. Verbal report was given. Sweepers should be in on Friday or Monday. Done with all breaks on the small trucks. The motor that they ordered, some of the small pins did not come in. Grant for Oakham Turnpike rd. improvements through the One Stop Grant is being submitted, the grant is for about \$116,000.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Peggy Thompson was present. Verbal report was given. There are new Assessment figures. Kevin Landine stated that it was 3.55 % last year but came up to 3.6% after the town meeting. They are still looking for a new Superintendent and will be starting interviews this week. They have 6 interviews coming up soon.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not Present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Executive Secretary Report:

Select Board Reports:

- An estimate to get the town hall grand room cleaned came in from Serv Pro and it was estimated to be around \$12,646. The floor estimated alone was estimated to be \$5,700. The Select Board stated that this estimate is too much money and they will be looking into other options.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, May 22nd, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present, and Dennis Letendre was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Jody Kablack, Les Miller, Jason Ayer, David Thompson, Deb Morrison, Jennifer Pollard, Palmer Moore from Nexamp, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Approval of the Select Board meeting minutes of May 8th, 2023. Vote required.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Close Town Warrant for Special and Annual Town Meetings** - Vote may be required. Michael made a motion to close the Warrants for the Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting, and Joseph seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Reconfiguration of committee** - pass over because Dennis is out.
- **Historical Committee** - Deb stated that her, Julie, and Jennifer went to the Finance Committee after the last meeting, and they were told that the finance committee would write the article. They asked the Executive Secretary if she received it from the finance committee. The Executive Secretary said that she did not receive it from the finance committee but spoke to them and they stated they advised the Historical Committee that they would need to write the article. The Historical Committee said they would like to submit an article tonight about the approved funds they were allowed to use.
- **Farmer Matt** - Needs signatures for two one-day pouring licenses. One is for Lost Town Brewing Event scheduled for June 10th, 2023, and the other is for Lost Town Brewing Event scheduled for June 15th, 2023. Michael made a motion to sign the two one-day pouring licenses and Joseph seconded it, passed unanimously.
- **Planning Board and Nexamp** - Here to discuss the Summit Solar Settlement Agreement. Jason Ayer stated that the Planning Board went through the whole agreement already and was ready to sign but they did not have the 4 members needed to sign. So, they are not putting off Nexamp again, they wanted to come tonight before the Select Board and would like to answer any questions. Jody Kablack stated what stopped everything in its tracks was when Mr. Long passed away it went into probate. They needed to make sure that the heir was on board with Nexamp having full control over the lease terms. Nexamp agreed to give \$4,000 more for landscaping and will escrow \$20,000 for additional landscaping. The planning board will be working with the landscaping architect on where to put this additional landscaping and then Nexamp will install it. The Planning Board has not approved the special permit for

this yet. Once there's an agreement approved, they will go out in hallway and will approve the special permit. There is a 30 - day appeal period on the special permit so that is unknown, and they are hoping that no one will appeal it. Michael made a motion to vote and sign the settlement agreement, Joseph seconded, passed unanimously. Jennifer Pollard asked how many years will the solar field be in place? Palmer Moore, from Nexamp, stated that the solar field will be in place for a minimum of 20 years and the maximum is 35-40 years.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. No report was given.

Fire Department: Not present. No report was given.

Highway Department: Not present. Verbal report was given. General road maintenance. The flagpole is up and just needing the rope part set up. The highway Dept. removed a large Ash tree from behind the church. They lightened up the Norway Maple Trees in the cemetery, but the trees do need to be taken down, so they do not take out the cemetery stones.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Present. See above.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Historical Committee: Present. See above.

Executive Secretary Report: Michael made a motion to accept roof shingle project quote from Zeglen in the amount of \$11,500 and Joseph seconded, passed unanimously. Pollard stated that they did not want to submit an estimate and Kid Luuko estimated \$15,000. Pennington Painters were the only ones that put in an estimate of \$4,300 for painting the hall grand room. Michael made a motion to accept adding 10m from 5m for an extra connection at the price of \$199.95 for the Crocker Broadband and \$99.95 for the install charge, Joseph seconded, passed unanimously. Worcester Regional Retirement would like to give a 2% raise, but the Select Board must vote on it. Michael made a motion to accept the Worcester Regional Retirement increase, Joseph seconded, passed unanimously. Getting estimates for cleaning the hall. Michelle Atwood was going to submit an estimate and we received an estimate from Serv Pro as well but in came in really high, Select Board asked to wait on making a decision. Donna farmer is coming June 13th, 2023 for office hours. Ann Gobi is resigning as Senator and is moving into a the position of Director of Rural Development but will still be involved with the town.

Select Board Reports:

The Annual and Special Town meeting was moved to Thursday, June 22nd, 2023. The Executive Secretary was asked to submit the warrants to attorneys. The articles that need to be sent are Dennis's Fire Dept. warrant, Historical Commission warrant, we do not need to send Quabbin's and Nexamp.

Michael mentioned that there have been no applicants for the police officer position. The full-time officers have been working double shifts and only one person is on. He mentioned that they tried to work out something about incentives for the position with the Hardwick Town Administrator, Nicole Parker, but she said absolutely not.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQuestion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m., Joseph Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, June 12th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), Michael McQueston (Clerk), and Dennis Letendre Jr. were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Jennifer Pollard, Sheila Muir, Cheryl Duval, Colleen, Kevin Clark, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Approval of the Select Board meeting minutes of April 24th, 2023, Michael made a motion, Joseph seconded, May 8th, 2023, Dennis made a motion, Joseph seconded, and May 22nd, 2023, Michael made a motion, Joseph seconded. Vote required.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Reconfiguring Board-** Joseph Chenevert will remain Chair, Michael McQueston has been designated as Vice Chair, Dennis Letendre Jr. has been designated as Clerk.
- **Sheila Muir, Colleen Mucha, Cheryl Duval, and Kevin Clark** – Discussion on the New Braintree Grade School boiler. Joseph said he was told back in April that the boiler at the New Braintree Grade School is starting to leak, and they do not think it will last another winter. Joseph thought he needed to only talk to Kevin Clark, head of maintenance for the Quabbin Regional School District, and that the school was going to put out the bid for the new boiler. Joseph did not think the town was responsible for putting out the bid because the town had no idea what is needed at the school. The town does have money set aside for the boiler. Time is crucial. Joseph said that Hubbardston got an estimate of \$50,000 for their boiler and their boiler is a lot larger than the one at the New Braintree School. Cheryl Duval said the school will put out the bids for the boiler, and the town will reimburse the school. Cheryl will work with Kevin Clark to get the quotes and the Executive Secretary to continue the bid process. Dennis and Joseph mentioned that it was discussed that they would like to have a back up boiler in case something happens with one. Joseph mentioned he thinks that \$50,000 was set aside. Jennifer Pollard asked if Mass saves would help with energy rebates and Kevin mentioned that National Grid is worth looking into as well. Discussion on using one boiler but running the other so it stays working. Sheila Muir introduced Colleen Mucha as the new Superintendent. Colleen has been with the district for 5 years as Director of Teaching, Learning, and Support. Dennis brought up the chiller and meeting with the finance committee to tomorrow.
- **Kevin Nimitz** – Asked to be added on the agenda so he can talk to the Select Board about concerns he has with the Conservation Committee. Kevin was not present.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. Report was given. The police department would like to appoint Chief James Ayotte, Lieutenant Kevin Landine, Sergeant Robert Toupin, Officer Ryan Gentile, Officer Patrick Almstrom, Officer Andrew Ronnau, and Officer Grant Murtagh, as full-time officers. One Intermittent Police Officer, 1 yr. appointment, Peter Ribaud. Mary Ann Regin, Lori Hoffman, and Erin Ballard, as 1 yr. appointed Matron's. Edward Pollock, as Civilian Detention Assistant. Lori Hoffman, 1 yr. appointment, as Police Clerk. Father Richard Lembo, as Police Chaplin. Lt. Kevin Landine and Patrick Almstrom, as Designated Infectious Control Officers. Nicholas Newman, Ryan Daly, Shawn Crevier, Stephen P. Lebrun, Matthew Letendre, Richard Cooley Jr., John Bell, John Agnew, Michael Blanchard, Peter Buck, Matthew Ryel, Mark Sawyer, Paul Magerowski, Joseph Lazerick, and Joseph Brown, as 1 yr. appointed Special Police Officers. Edward Pollock, as Traffic Assistant. Dennis made a motion, Michael seconded, passed unanimously. SGT. Toupin received a letter of commendation from a resident in Hardwick, for resolving an issue involving a laptop purchased from the resident using counterfeit money.

Fire Department: Dennis Letendre Jr. was Present. Verbal report was given. 3 structure fires overall within a 14-16-hour period, a couple car accidents, fire alarms. Two fire fighters went to Devens for ASHER training, they reported back that they are about 3 years ahead of the state. 2 fire fighters, 1 from New Braintree (Jen) and 1 from Barre (Emily), both are on New Braintree fire Dept., started their Rope Rescue Training today, that is a 40-hour program, in Westfield. Jen is going to be the submission for the Tech District Rescue Team. Dennis said he will be on vacation starting this Thursday and won't return until July 3rd. Michael is leaving for vacation on Thursday too but will be back on June 21st.

Highway Department: Not present. Verbal report was given. Dennis discussed at the last finance committee meeting about safety gear for them. Dennis said he went to look at safety gear with Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent. Bought them coats for the winter. Dennis found some shirts. Michael mentioned PTS, in Palmer, sells high visibility stuff. Richard was told that he did not have to be as detailed on what the highway does during the day so he is not wasting his time trying to write it all down.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Historical Committee: Not present. No report.

Executive Secretary Report:

- Donna Farmer will be here tomorrow from 12:00pm-12:45pm
- Christopher Bouchard approved the additional funds, of \$11,000, needed for the Hardwick/Ravine Project.

Select Board Reports:

- Joseph inquired about the Creamery bridge.
- Dennis asked about the fridge and what it was. Jennifer Pollard stated that she believed the issue with the refrigerator was a leak. She was told that it is only a temporary fix.
- The yard sale went very well.
- Dennis asked about the Worcester Regional Retirement email that was sent out. The Select Board voted on the 2% increase for COLA at the May 22nd Select Board Meeting.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQuestion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., Dennis Letendre Jr. seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, June 26th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), Michael McQuestion (Vice Chair) were present, and Dennis Letendre Jr. was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Jennifer Pollard, Jessica Monahan, Claire Reavey, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Vote required. Approval of the Select Board meeting minutes of June 12th, 2023, Michael made a motion to accept, Joseph seconded. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Bill Kleinedler** – Concerns regarding a building permit for his roof and Momentum Solar check for the solar permit. The concerns were discussed prior to the meeting and addressed.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. No report was given.

Fire Department: Not Present. No report was given.

Highway Department: Not present. No report was given.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Claire Reavey was present. No Report was given. Claire introduced Jessica Monahan, who lives on Old Wine Rd. The Assessor's would like for the Select Board to appoint Jessica as an Assessor. Michael McQuestion made a motion to appoint Jessica Monahan as Assessor, Joseph Chenevert seconded, passed unanimously for 1 year. Jessica was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Planning Board Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Historical Committee: Not present. No report.

Executive Secretary Report:

- Followed up about Creamery Road project. Shirley Shiver of MassDOT, said she was waiting on the project because Hardwick was finishing up the end of the year. Joseph mentioned that he thinks it is in last year's annual meeting minutes that they already voted on the project to go through.

Select Board Reports:

- Roof is done.
- The window is in.
- Zeglen will be getting a quote for siding on the two gables on each side of the hall.
- Ask Matt to fix the front sign board because of chain getting stuck in hair when people try to post.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

- Appointments of Various Town Committees. Vote required. Michael McQuestion made a motion to accept the appointments, Joseph Chenevert seconded the motion, passed unanimously. (See attached)

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQuestion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m., Joseph Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive

New Braintree, MA 01531

Present at Meeting: Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and Michael McQueston were present. Dennis Letendre Jr. was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

GATHERING: Jennifer Pollard, Sam Hayes, Judy Hughes, Steve Hughes, Richard Ayer, Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

OPEN BIDS: Fuel and Materials FY24 Bids opened.

(Please see attached Bids submitted)

- All States Construction, Inc. (Materials)
- Massachusetts Broken Stone Company (Materials)
- R.J. McDonald, Inc. (Materials)
- Brown's Trucking & Excavating (Materials)
- Rusty's Tree Experts (Tree work)
- Poirier Guidelines (Line Painting)
- Palmer Paving (Materials)
- Murray Paving (Materials)
- P.J. Keating (Materials)

- Sherman Oil Company, Inc. (Fuel Bid)
- E.P. Wine (Fuel Bid)
- R.J. McDonald, Inc. (Fuel Bid)

Michael McQueston made a motion to close the bidding opening at 6:21 p.m., Joseph A. Chenevert seconded. - all in favor

ADJOURNMENT: Mike McQueston made a motion to adjourn, Joseph Chenevert seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The meeting closed at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, July 10th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), Michael McQueston (Vice Chair), and Dennis Letendre Jr. (Clerk), were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Eric Troy, Jennifer Pollard, Les Miller, Mark Borelli, Richard Ayer, Marty Goulet, Bill Lavigne, Kim Lancaster, Renee Gregoire (late 7:02 pm), Michelle Gallagher (late 7:02 pm), Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Vote required. Approval of the Select Board meeting minutes of June 26th, 2023, and Bid opening minutes for June 28th, 2023. Michael made a motion to accept, Joseph seconded. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Town Auditor** - Here to discuss FY23 and FY24. Funds transfers. Renee would like to ask the Select Board's approval for the funds' transfers. Joseph asked about Library payroll, can she take the expense and roll it over to the payroll? Renee explained that the accounts with credits are on the right side and these accounts had debit. Dennis makes a motion to accept the report from the Town Auditor for money transfers, Michael seconded, passed unanimously. We need to tell Suzor IT that they did not get selected this year.

- **Zoning Board**- Marty Goulet here to talk about Texas BBQ food truck. Marty stated that the Zoning Board does not think that they need to act on this, but they will be meeting to discuss it on July 12th, 2023. It is unrelated to the Paradis gun shop. Marty does not see any reason why the Zoning Board should need to review or get involved with the Texas BBQ food truck. Marty asked what the Select Board would like the Zoning Board to talk about regarding the food truck. Dennis Letendre Jr. stated that the Select Board received a formal complaint from a town resident regarding the food truck. The Select Board reviewed everything and did not see any issues with it. Dennis reminded the owners of Texas BBQ, Bill, and Kim, to review their notes to make sure that they are not violating anything. Marty reviewed the bylaw Section 9# Zoning Section C14, uses allowed by special permit any retail business. Joseph Chenevert said Texas BBQ got all the Board of health permits they needed, but they do need to get a business permit. The Select Board and Zoning Board read the formal complaint from Mark Kablack, regarding the Texas BBQ food truck. Joseph stated that he does not see where the illegal signage is. Marty said that if the Board of Health told them what they could do or not do, then the Board of Health is requiring conditions to a permit in use, he may have a Board of Health approval to do something but doesn't have a

bylaw or right to do it there. Bill and Kim explained that the Paradis's are Bill's Aunt and Uncle, and they live with Bill's mother. Mark Borelli asked what Farmer Matt and June's Bake shop has done in the past because they make food. Michael McQueston and Joseph explained that those two places are permanent indoor businesses, not pop-up businesses like food trucks. Jennifer Pollard asked if the state of Massachusetts has anything to say about it being route 67. The Select Board explained that it is a town road not a state road. Joseph said we will wait and see what you come up with on Wednesday at the Zoning Board. Marty stated that he doesn't think that the Zoning Board has any role because the Zoning Officer has already ruled on this. Marty suggested that whoever is running the business should apply for a special permit under Section C14. Joseph recommended maybe contacting the town attorney and seeing what they say. Marty and Mark suggested not to waste money on the attorney when they could figure it out. Mike motioned to table it and Dennis seconded. Passed unanimously. The Select Board told Bill and Kim that they could continue to sell their food but if their special permit with the Zoning Board is denied, then they cannot operate. Bill and Kim stated that they only work Wednesday-Sunday. The Zoning Board and Select Board stated that the letter from the Zoning Officer does not say seize and desist. The Select Board did not understand the complaint about lack of parking and felt that there was nothing wrong with the parking lot. Bill and Kim went to the Town Clerk and asked for a business permit.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Not present. No report was given.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. No report was given.

Fire Department: Present. Verbal report was given. The Fire Department has had 4 calls since the last Select Board meeting. There was a water leak at the New Braintree Grade School. Someone burned a couch in their front yard. There were some wires down and a fuel leak. Julianne Stenger is working as a paid intern with the Fire Dept. for the summer from the school and the state. She is now a member of the Fire Dept. Starting to get set up for the trucks to get the NFPA Inspections and NFPA Pump tests. The first truck is going July 24th, usually they go to Greenwood in North Attleboro but now they are going to Bulldog in Hopkinton. Greenwood picks them up but Bulldog the trucks need to be delivered. State police have an open house on Wednesday from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, the Fire Dept. will be there as a part of it. Fire truck the \$789 number, two companies that were eligible under that number. One of them Dennis likes the service and the Truck components better and the other truck has a better cab design, but they are much further away, and he is

not satisfied with their product. The company with the truck he wants said they went up \$66,000 so they are out. Only one truck is available now, so they are going to hold the price until August. July 24th the vote will be for the new fire truck at special election.

Highway Department: Richard present. Verbal report was given. All road material bids have been awarded. Needs Select Board to vote on the fuel bids. R.J. McDonald bid on a \$2.97 plus tax fixed amount and on amount of 29 cents on rack price. Sherman did not bid a fixed price but did bid at 19 cents over rack price, which will vary weekly. On number 2 heating, they both bid on a fixed with Sherman \$2.95 and R.J. McDonald being \$2.99 or a 55-cent mark up. Michael said that Sherman is more predictable. Richard can't see the price for diesel going down. Joseph said Sherman is cheaper. R.J. McDonald was a little better because down the road. R.J. McDonald would come to check the gauge and tank. The cleaning is close between both. E.P. Wine was cheaper by 4 cents for propane. Joseph said they own the tank. Dennis made a motion to give E.P. Wine propane, Michael seconded, passed unanimously. For #2 heating, McDonald bid a 29-cent over mark up and Sherman bid a 19-cent mark up. Michael made a motion to accept Sherman oil's bid for #2 heating oil, service contract, and for diesel. Dennis seconded, passed unanimously. Parking lot would be at \$90 a ton, in place, if they will do a parking lot. Richard said it would be \$110,671 to do parking lot, does not include police alley and behind school. That would be the cost with the highway picking it up and dropping it off at Bond for it to be ground up. Richard put in \$900 for misc. structure work. Highway has been trying to keep up with wash outs. Needs to address some of the trees around. Gravel roads, he has held off on graveling, so he does not need to redo them. Water systems that handle everything on roads are blocking the systems. Trucks and equipment are coming up for inspection. The 6-wheel mac needs a transmission and a clutch too. New oil pan on 10-wheel mac. Wants the Select Board's permission to dismiss the 1 ton and 1967 catch basin truck and put them up for auction to get them out of the yard. Municibid can help with auctioning. Richard said that they put it on craigs list and Facebook marketplace last time and it did well. Joseph told the Executive Secretary to reach out to Pacman to see if he can adjust the Flag light on the common. Richard said someone put the rope on the flag and wanted to thank whoever did it. Richard asked if any of the Select Board members were approached about closing Camp Putnam Road. All select board said no and do not plan to shut it down. Joseph thinks maybe Oakham was approached but not New Braintree. Renee asked about the Ivy invoice from Richard, and he said it is Rental on the oxygen and settling tanks. Joseph asked about the cut out in front of the library, Richard said they could prep it now to have it done.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Not Present. No report was given.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Historical Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Executive Secretary Report: Present. No report was given.

Select Board Reports:

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss adopting a policy about flags on town property. Town Council thinks it's a good idea to adopt a policy. The Town Council verbiage should include saying that "town property is not a public forum to express themselves". Can only have federal and state flags such as American flag, POW, State flag. People can hang any flag they want on their own property but are not allowed to do it on town property. Michael made a motion to begin the process of creating a policy with the Town Council for no flags on town property, Dennis seconded, passed unanimously.

- Need to decide on who the town will use for IT services- Clear com, C.M. Geeks, Suzor IT, all submitted estimates. Michael made a motion to accept C.M. Geeks, Dennis seconded, passed unanimously. C.M. Geeks were asked to contact Suzor IT so they can get everything swapped for C.M. Geeks.

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m., Joseph Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING

Select Board

Monday, July 24th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Office of the Select Board
20 Memorial Drive
New Braintree, MA 01531

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), Michael McQueston (Vice Chair), and Dennis Letendre Jr. (Clerk), were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

GATHERING: Eric Troy, Farmer Matt, Colleen Mucha, Cheryl Duval, Kevin Clark, Michelle Galagher, Peggy Thompson, Richard Ayer, Mark Borelli, Holly Haller, Renee Gregoire, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Vote required. Approval of the Select Board meeting minutes for July 10th, 2023. Michael made a motion to accept, Dennis seconded. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- **Farmer Matt** -Here to ask the Select Board to approve two one-day pouring licenses. One for Lost Town Brewery Event on July 27th, 2023, and the second for Deep Roots Distillery USA Event on July 30th, 2023. Deep Roots Distillery, out of Sturbridge, will be doing tastings of a variety of spirits, and will do cocktails, 1-ounce of alcohol in the mixed drinks. They were at the farm picking herbs like sage to use in certain cocktails that they would be making. They are tip certified. Farmer Matt asked if they could use up his 30 one-day pouring licenses throughout the fall for his wife's friends brewing company. Joseph reminded Farmer Matt that if something does come up, even though the Select Board issued the one-day pouring licenses, the Select Board can pull those licenses at any time. Farmer Matt said that if everything goes well this year, they are going to consider getting a liquor license. Michael made a motion to accept, and Dennis seconded, passed unanimously.

- **Colleen Mucha (Superintendent of QRSD), Cheryl Duval, and Kevin Clark**- Here to discuss the New Braintree Project. Boiler project, Cheryl has done some info. research, same with Kevin. Looked for quotes to get an idea of the level of procurement is needed. Cheryl looked into cooperative agreements so that they do not need to put it out for bid. Town of New Braintree belongs to the Omni of Partners Collective Bargaining Agreement, became a partner in the year 2017. They did get the specs on the boiler last week. They have one quote already from R.J. McDonald, estimated at \$84,500. That quote includes the current prevailing wage. Cheryl stated that they want to see what Train and Daikin can do for a quote. If we can get labor under \$50,000, we would be good. Chiller project is ready to go, and they have everything that is needed but the electrical transformer and it could take 10 weeks. Recently, work done on green community grant, Colleen, Cheryl, and Kevin put together a checklist for what needs

to be done because things went wrong in the New Braintree Grade School, and they wanted to have a plan set in place. See attached. Michael mentioned that there are nighttime custodians and asked if one of them could be pulled from the high school like they have done before. Kevin said it shouldn't be too hard to send someone if he knows in advance so he could schedule it. They just want to make sure that someone is there if something does happen. Dennis recommended that they have an emergency contact list, so the contractor put their name and contact info., their supervisor's contact, the onsite supervisor, the fire chief's info., police contact, highway contact posted in building so if anything happens there are numbers for people in the building to reach out. Colleen said that would be great and they will add that to step #2 on the checklist.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:

Town Clerk: Not Present. No report was given.

Treasurer: Not present. No report was given.

Board of Health: Not present. No report was given.

Auditor: Renee Gregoire present. No report was given. Asked if the Building Inspector can be discussed at the next personnel meeting.

Finance Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Police Department: Not present. Report was given. See attached.

Fire Department: Dennis Letendre Jr. present. Verbal report was given. 8 calls since the last Select Board meeting. Mostly fire alarms, 1 four corners accident, 1 motorcycle accident, received grant for the forest fire grant where we match half. Will be at national night out.

Highway Department: Richard Ayer present. Verbal report was given. General road maintenance. Still waiting for CH90 funds to come out. Richard asked if the town will be going to get the highway truck or not. \$25,000 left over in insurance funds from the sweeper. Need to use ARPA money soon or they are going to take the money back. Dennis asked how much for a trade in for the 1 ton. Dennis recommended getting two trucks if possible. Richard said one truck was \$84,000. Brand new truck is around \$115,000 with the body.

Council on Aging: Not present. No report was given.

School Committee: Peggy Thompson present. Verbal report was given. Thinking about putting a pilot preschool program in Hardwick.

Veterans' Agent: Not present. No report was given.

Assessors: Not present. No Report was given.

Planning Board Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Zoning Board Appeals: Mark Borelli, Michelle Galagher, Holly Haller, Present. Verbal report was given. Meeting on Wednesday to discuss the food truck. The building Inspector said they can continue until the ZBA makes the final decision. Michelle mentioned it was brought to her attention that there is an A frame on Barr rd. there is an air b n b, and that the property owners are advertising. No septic, outside shower, has an outhouse on property, and is close to a river. Is advertised on air b n b. Fern Valley, is renting it out. Michelle mentioned that Farmer Matt does not qualify for the Deep Roots Distillery because he is not a non-profit. The Executive Secretary stated she will contact Farmer Matt to inform him that he cannot hold that event with Deep Roots Distillery.

Conservation Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Revitalization: Not present. No report was given.

Historical Committee: Not present. No report was given.

Executive Secretary Report: Erin Ballard Present. Verbal report was given. Annual Reports should be ready by this Friday for pick-up.

Select Board Reports:

- Carry one week of Erin's vacation time over to this year's vacation time. Michael made a motion to approve, Dennis seconded. Passed unanimously.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

All mail was read at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael McQuestion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., Joseph Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Ballard
Executive Secretary