

Selectboard Meeting
October 3, 2011

Present: Noreen Suriner, Chair; Alan Vint; Mitch Feldmesser
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Communication Committee, Steve Harris and Leanne Every, met with Board regarding increase in wiring costs. Increase is result of adding data and voice ports to network. This way ports would be available if and when computers and phones were moved to different locations in office. Increase in wiring is \$1,200 and this would be for 38 ports in the building. The separate data and voice ports would give “cleaner” use to the computer system.

Noreen questioned what the effect of fiber optic services coming into the building would be and if it would be wiser to install a fiber optic network in the building now and spend additional costs up front for fiber optic rather than have to do it later.

Mitch agreed it would be better to install fiber optic now.

Noreen also questioned the life of DSL versus fiber optic.

Steve Harris will check to see what needs to be done when fiber optic becomes available and will discuss present cost of service against future cost of the fiber optic network.

Also, Comm/Comm said that wireless will be available throughout the building on the current network but the office network will be hard-wired and offer greater security.

It was agreed the additional information will be presented at next week’s Selectboard meeting.

There was also an increase in the costs of the network equipment of \$350; this represents an upgrade in the equipment. **Steve Harris** had done some comparison shopping to find the best price available. The board authorized

Steve to use his personal credit card to purchase the equipment and then be reimbursed.

The Board thanked the Communication Committee for their work on this project.

Warrants were approved: Payroll, \$6,562.26; Expenses, \$6,247.65; Hurricane Irene, \$9,980.31

Noreen motioned to accept **minutes** of 9/26/11 minutes with some changes, **Mitch** seconded. Vote 3-0 in favor.

Hampshire Council of Government had sent sample letter of support for the DIG program for Selectboard and Board of Health to review and sign. **Noreen** motioned to accept the letters as written, **Mitch** seconded and vote was 3-0 in favor.

Administrative Assistant to put letters on Town letterhead, have chair sign and mail to HCOG.

Town has to send letter to **Dept of Revenue** seeking permission to overspend for the damages caused by Hurricane Irene.

Noreen motioned to approve sending a letter regarding the deficit spending caused by Hurricane Irene, **Mitch** seconded. Vote was 3-0.

Joe Kearns, Finance Committee Chair, was present and explained it was an emergency situation with the hurricane and that Free Cash was available and could be used to cover the deficit.

Next item for discussion was **Halloween**; **Noreen** spoke with **Charlene Gero**, who had previously been on the Recreation Sub-Committee, and she was not interested in being involved.

Trick or treating will be held on Saturday, October 29th from 4-6pm. **Noreen** submitted a schedule of events to be held at the Town Hall including hay wagon, covered wagon rides for trick or treating, dinner, games, pumpkin contest and concluding with a Bon Fire.

Alan motioned in favor of the date and time and that Noreen be reimbursed for her costs from the Recreation Committee budget. **Mitch seconded**; vote 3-0 in favor.

Noreen said Middlefield can be part of the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid. Middlefield would have to sign the Mutual Aid “Opt-In” and send it back to MEMA. Noreen motioned to accept, Mitch seconded; vote 3-0 in favor. “Opt-In” was signed and will be sent to MEMA.

Alan said he had a conversation with the board of Health agent, Jackie Duda, last Friday and she told him there were some sanitation issues with the Town Hall kitchen. She suggested she meet with all the kitchen users and janitor and go over some cleaning suggestions.

Also, **Alan** said there was going to be a pole hearing being held by the Conservation Committee on Wednesday night regarding pole installations the WMECO did on Chester Road. This is because what WEMCO showed on their plan was not what was actually installed.

Mitch added that the Conservation Committee and Selectboard have to have separate hearing regarding the poles.

Alan will set up the hearing for the Selectboard and it will be posted on the web-site as well as the Town Hall and Post Office.

Alan questioned **Joe Kearns** regarding a bill from the plumber for work done in the Town Hall. Joe advised it was for work to correct a unit that was initially installed wrong.

Alan then requested **Skip Savery**, road superintendent, clear the trap in the janitor’s sink. Skip said he will get it done and he will also remove the old water tank from the boiler room.

Skip said as a result of Hurricane Irene he spent most of the monies repairing Cone and Upper Chipman roads. Also, the paving of the parking lot at the old store was completed last week.

D.E.P. has requested additional testing wells at the Town Garage, this is due to the fact the garage had floor drains in it at one time. The septic system at the Senior Center has been repaired and a new pump installed.

Skip also advised he would not be going to the meeting regarding the Berkshire dispatch as it does not affect him and he is currently very busy repairing the damaged road.

Joe Kearns said Northeast Solar had sent in a proposal for the solar installation and it is under review.

9:07pm: Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy and possible negotiations on matter that has come before the Board. Board will not reconvene.

Vote 3-0 in favor.

Minutes respectively submitted,

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Mitch Feldmesser

Alan Vint