

Selectboard Meeting  
October 31, 2011

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

**Steve Harris** of the Communication Committee provided a quick update that the network has been completed and if a 3<sup>rd</sup> wireless transmitter is needed, it can be added.

**Alan** presented a letter showing **Kim Baker** of the Conservation Committee has completed the MACC “Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioner” training course. He is the third member to complete this course.

**Town Clerk, Marge Batorski**, was present and the Board requested a copy of the “camping” by-law that was amended in 2002 which she provided.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with some changes.

The warrants were approved with a question of **Police Chief Tom Austin’s** payment for his private contractor duty during the repairs after Hurricane Irene. It was learned the Town had already been paid by the contractor and Tom was now asking for his pay. Admin. Asst. will request Treasurer to attach photocopy of check to warrant in the future.

Expense warrant was for \$174,016.31.

Payroll warrant was for \$12,143.24.

**Noreen** questioned the policy on resident’s use of sand and salt during the winter.

**Joe Kearns**, Finance Chair, said the policy has been to allow residents to take away material in 5 gallon pails for their private use.

The Privy issue was discussed next with **Alan** asking if the set back issue was properly handled by the Zoning Board or does the Board of Health or Selectboard make the rules.

**Joe Kearns** said the health issue is something the BOH needs to set the regulation as the Selectboard is also the BOH.

**Noreen** was concerned about any contaminants leaching from the privy site.

**Mitch** felt the BOH should look to the Health Agent, Jackie Duda, for guidance and Alan agreed the BOH needs to obtain regulations and email them to Jackie for her review.

**Wally Smith**, meeting observer, suggested the use of portable toilets like those used at construction sites.

Discussion on restricting use to port-a-potties as there are many privies on other properties, proper wording of any regulation, planning or zoning issue on building used as privy.

**Alan** said the question is: are we going to allow privies or not. If the Town is going to accept privies then standards are going to be needed.

All agreed in general and **Noreen** will request Jackie look into the State regulations on privies.

**Mitch** also brought up the issue of paying the Health Agent as there is no line item in the budget for her pay. The prior agent was paid out of a revolving account for the work he performed.

**Joe Kearns** said that could continue but the fund is most likely to run out of money. Currently the fees the agent collects go into the General Fund. The salary account request will have to go before the Town as an article for a Special Town Meeting. The Town will have its Free Cash certified shortly and there will be sufficient funds for this item.

There was discussion regarding Jackie and the need to have her prepare a projected budget and update her report for the Selectboard.

**Alan** has been accumulating documentation regarding the Harry Pease Road and will be going to the Hampshire Registry of Deeds to do further research.

Also, an EMT course is going to be offered in Becket and Alan is considering taking the course. There will be a meeting in Middlefield to see if any other people are interested.

With the Town Clerk's recent illness, she is considering requesting an assistant. She would appoint that person and the position could be funded from her salary account, not funded or placed as an article for a Special Town Meeting funding.

**Alan** spoke with Caprice Shaw of the Dept of Environmental Protections about the default letter she sent concerning the lack of testing at the Highway Garage. He also asked if she would be willing to meet with the Board to explain the current situation at the old General Store. The Board agreed to request she attend a meeting to address the Store situation.

**Skip Savery**, highway superintendent, was questioned regarding the DEP default letter concerning the testing well at the Town Garage. He has been paying the yearly \$800 fee to the DEP but has not had any testing done. He will obtain quotes from 3 engineering firms that are qualified to do the water testing. There is only one well on the property.

Also, **Alan** stated the HCOG building inspection service is not working in any sense and it is time for the Town to look for their own building commissioner for these services.

The **Building Usage Policy** was reviewed and some changes were made, the Board will continue to review for further comment at the next meeting. Also, the maximum capacity for the auditorium must be obtained.

The last discussion concerned the renewal of licenses due at the beginning of the calendar year. Some of the licenses were approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and not the Selectboard and the board needs to be careful if it refuses to renew those licenses.

**Mitch** said the ZBA has two different functions: 1) hear appeals on zoning issues and 2) and is the special permit granting authority.

**Alan** suggested contacting the Town Attorney or Attorney General for guidance.

**Mitch** felt the Attorney General needed to be contacted if the ZBA granted an illegal permit.

The church requested use of the Town Hall auditorium for their Penny Social on 11/19. Noreen motioned to allow the use, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 in favor.

Noreen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmnesser