

Selectboard Meeting
January 17, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

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

No warrants to review.

Minutes were approved with spelling corrections, 2-0.

Tom Austin, Police Chief, presented a letter he sent to Larry Pease, Fire Chief, regarding a conversation Tom had with Rich Small, Chester Fire Chief. Small mentioned he will be hosting a Fire Fighter I class this spring and if anyone in Middlefield was interested they were welcome to attend. There would be very little cost to the Town but all attendees would need some fire gear and be covered by the Town's insurance.

Austin also mentioned there a three people enrolled in the EMT course being offered by Becket and, if possible, he would like the Fire Dept to pay for one of the students. This training should be completed by July 1st. Once completed Middlefield EMT, Ed Vivier, would offer monthly meetings to keep them active with their EMT training. Currently, Hinsdale provides ambulance coverage for Middlefield.

Jane Thielen, Town Treasurer, was not able to attend the meeting but in a general discussion a list of questions for her was brought forward by Alan.

- 1) Why are the receipts not up-to-date, and what needs to be done to bring them current;
- 2) How many hours are required to do the work;
- 3) What are the Tax Title issues:
 - a. How is it going?
 - b. What are your plans?
 - c. Are any tax foreclosures planned?
- 4) Request an increase in your legal fees, perhaps \$3,500, to continue to bring delinquent accounts in line;
- 5) Treasurer and Accountant need to communicate via the Soft-Rite program;

- 6) Pay schedule for Town Employees not on an hourly wage should be such that they are getting paid in the month they work;
- 7) Appointed officials need to request time-off from the Selectboard and notify the Board when they are not going to be in.

Mitch felt the Board does not have absolute control over the appointed positions and the Board needs to be careful in handling these situations.

Alan said these positions are appointed by the Board and are under the control of the Board.

Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, was in attendance and stated the Board needs to develop a list of expectations and have that appointee sign off. The Selectboard does have the power to hire and discipline but it needs to be careful.

Next item was securing 2 file cabinets that do not have locks on them. Joe Kearns installed the locking mechanisms on the secure cabinets and he will also install them on these 2 cabinets.

It was brought to the boards attention the hourly rate for the Building Commissioner was not voted on during the meeting he was hired. It was agreed his hourly rate was to be \$30 but it was not voted.

Alan motioned to pay the Building Commissioner \$30/hour, Mitch 2nd; vote was 2-0 in favor.

The Class II license requested by Kim Baker was the next item. Mitch hand delivered a letter from Jay Swift regarding a noise complaint coming from Baker's auto operation. The complaint said there was loud engine revving occurring during the weekends and that noise was disturbing. After a long discussion on restrictions and limitations including limiting the operation to Monday-Friday and Saturday until noon. A motion was made by **Alan** to issue the license to Big Picture Agency noting the noise allegations, those allegations were to be investigated, if proven, the license would be amended at a later date regarding the times of operations. Mitch 2nd the motions and the vote was 2-0 in favor of granting the Class II license subject to the motion.

Alan is still investigating the pole issue on Chester Road.

Sherri Venditti, who was in attendance, suggested that the surveys done around the “Arches” may be useful in determining the Town boundary.

Lastly, **Joe Kearns** noted there were no “Entering Middlefield” signs of the type found on the State Roads, he said it would be nice to have that type of sign on Skyline Trail at least.

Alan said he would check with Mass Highway as he is often in contact with them.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Mitch 2nd; meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Alan Vint, clerk

Mitch Feldmesser