

Selectboard Minutes
September 17, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:02pm

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

Brian Kibbe of Paradise Solar was present regarding the documents for the solar installation at the Town Hall. Various papers were signed by the Board. He advised it would be about 6 weeks before the actual installation could begin as there is paperwork that has to be processed by various entities.

Warrants were reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$8,496.71; expenses: \$22,583.40

Minutes of last meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

Erica Johnson of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was present to review the Block Grants and what is to be included in the funding application for the coming year. Fiscal year 2012 was not successful as no monies were granted for the programs. She has no indication of what is in store for this year. Some of the projects from previous years are still ongoing. She is going to include the Senior Center roof in this year's request again and will need some updates that she can obtain from the architect that did last year's proposal.

Erica requested the Town submit other projects such as a road improvement project. West Hill Road was discussed as a possible submission. Also discussed was a fire alarm for the Senior Center, that is not part of her grant but she said she would look into it. Alan asked if brownfields could be included in the grant as the vacant General Store property is in tax taking.

Noreen questioned if small or start up business help was available. Erica will research to see if there are grants available.

Kim Savery works for the Hilltown Social Services and the building they are currently housed in is in the process of being sold. She is not sure of their future location but they may be having hours in Middlefield and she was looking for options in town. It was suggested the Town Hall, Senior Center or church may be viable options.

Ron Radwich, Fire Chief, addressed the board on the department, he said they are taking baby steps right now and is aware of the problems that surfaced when the dept responded to a vehicle fire at a local residence. Also, he addressed the burning of a barn that was done for dept training. He did not get a permit from DEP prior to the burning. They did do a visual inspection of the barn and could see no hazardous material and there was no asbestos in the barn. It was unsafe to do an interior inspection. He will inform the Board of any future activities.

Ron is currently doing in-house training of the new members, a few still have to take the 1st responders and CPR courses. Once those are completed he hopes to have someone come to town to conduct the Firefighter One course. The dept has received 13 new sets of turnout gear.

It was stressed that the safety of the firemen is of utmost importance and also, the concerns of liability to the Town.

It was also suggest that Ron look into purchasing an iPhone for the dept. as it would be more accessible than a P.C.

Ron said he has a surplus truck that may be well-suited for Bob Hoynoski to use as an emergency response vehicle.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, advised the Board the new truck was delivered on Friday and has been lettered. He submitted the STRAP grant and will find out next month if it will be granted. It was a 2 part submission for the reconstruction of Chester Road. He also is looking into a purchasing breathing apparatus for the sand blasting hood, he had previously bought the hood and currently they are using masks. He will be attending a Mitigation meeting this Friday, he will see about obtaining monies to replace a culvert on Clark Wright Road.

Maryann Walsh was appointed to the Historical Commission.

Cultural Council appointments were made. Nominations were:
Charlene Gero, Tracy Gero, Maryann Walsh, Judy Artioli and Judy Hoag.

All were appointed on a motion by Noreen, 2nd by Alan; votes were 3-0.

Mitch volunteered for the Kitchen Committee and was appointed on a 3-0 vote.

Noreen is checking with other Veteran Agents to see if any are interested is serving the Town.

The Building Commissioner needs to notify the entire Board when he is not going to be in during his scheduled hours.

There was general discussion regarding a Special Town Meeting as additional funds will be needed for legal fees, Veteran agent, Vocational Education. Also, the Board will speak with the Building Commissioner regarding the issuing of Class II licenses.

Noreen motioned to adjourn, Alan 2nd, vote was 3-0 and meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser