

Selectboard Minutes
October 15, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:06pm

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

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

Noreen motioned to suspend Selectboard Meeting and open Board of Health meeting; Alan 2nd, vote was 3-0. Meeting suspended at 7:30pm

Health Agent, Jackie Duda, was present to discuss various issues with the Board. The first discussion was regarding the perc test at the Budness residence; Ms. Budness had been at the last Selectboard meeting to complain about not being able to have her perc test and that her installer had made 3 or 4 trips with his equipment. Jackie had been in contact with her soil evaluator prior and the perc test was performed Friday.

Next item discussed was the MRSA issue that was brought forward when a townsperson announced to many that he/she had MRSA. Jackie advised this was not a BOH issue and any health alerts are handled by the State's Public Health Office. They may ask the local Health Agent to do a case investigation but that would be all. The State's concerns are with such illnesses as hepatitis, TB, etc.

Also discussed was the Hudson Property and the complaint filed with the State regarding an incomplete investigation. Jackie admitted she did not do a complete investigation but responded to the outhouse complaint and when she could find no records of a septic permit and installation or a well being drilled she sent the order letter to the Hudson's. She advised the State Inspector, Charlie, Kaniecki, recommended she withdraw her original letter, inspect the property completely and then issue the order letter. There are still other concerns about the property that involve the Building Commissioner but the BOH wants Jackie to address the health issues.

Brief discussion regarding the vendor inspections at the Fair, some felt they were harassed over little things. Jackie said she was there to protect the fair goers and the vendors by making sure proper procedures were followed. Ray Gero spoke and said he witnessed some inspections and felt Jackie was very fair and right in what she did.

The last item discussed involved a complaint from the ambulance that services the Town regarding an elderly resident. The EMT's were concerned with the condition of the home and the possibilities of contracting the Hantavirus. This can be transmitted from contact with mouse waste. There was a general discussion about remedies and the possibility of the Health Agent inspecting the home. Jackie said she would request Charlie Kaniecki, the regional State Inspector, attend any inspection with her. It was agreed the Board did not want any of the First Responders or EMT's to be put at risk but any action may put the resident at risk. The Board is going to review options and speak with the EMT's about any possible suggestions for improving the situation. It was also suggested that Highland Valley Elder Care be involved and provide assistance to this resident but this aide had been refused in the past.

On a motion by Noreen, 2nd by Alan, vote 3-0 the BOH meeting was closed at 8:40pm.

The Selectboard meeting was reconvened at 8:40pm.

Erica Johnson of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was also present to discuss the priorities for the Community Development Grant for the Town. She reviewed the list from last year and there was a general discussion on what was to be included and what priority was to be given to each. It was agreed the Senior Center roof is still the most important item on the list. The Board will discuss and create a list for this grant submission and transmit it to Erica at a later date.

Town Clerk, Marge Batorski, met with the Board regarding a recent certified letter that she received; this letter included a new law suit filed on the Harry Pease Road situation. She copied the suit and gave it to the Administrative Assistant; it was placed in the mail folder for review and was overlooked as it was thought to be part of the original action. The suit has been referred to Town Counsel and also sent to the Town's Insurer, MIIA, requesting they provide defense and indemnification. In the future, all certified mail will be dealt with individually and placed in the review folder. This suit was filed in Hampshire Superior Court while the original suit was file in Land Court.

Harold Knickerbocker advised the Board he had created a new web site, Middlefieldma.org, to digitalize the town history and make it available on-line. He would like to be able to place all of the archives on line but this will take some time. He also questioned the Board on the 20 pages of information he had given regarding his research on the Harry Pease Road.

Zoning Board of Appeals chair, Terry Crean, is sending a letter to the Board asking for the appointment of an alternate member. This is necessary in situations where a member will have to recuse himself.

Halloween will be October 31st from 5-8pm.

Judy Hoag questioned the status of the old General Store, she was advised it was in tax title and that it would take a number of years before the Town would be able to take possession.

Eleanor Doyle, a Library Trustee, discussed the possibility of creating a sidewalk to provide access to the library during good weather. This walk would make use of the rear door to the library. The Trustees will come up with a plan for this entrance. She also questioned replacing the ceiling tiles that are damaged or missing. This will hopefully be addressed by using funding from the Green Grant to replace the ceilings in the Town Hall with insulated panels.

The Board agreed to meet every other week through the end of the year.

Noreen brought up the need for a Forestry Plan for the Town for the Town owned lands. Alan felt the only parcel that would require a plan is the 70 acre plot known as the Plot. That plot is land-locked but there may be a way to gain access through an abutter's property. This will be looked into at a later date.

The generator at the Senior Center needs to be installed and Alan volunteered to use his tractor to dig out for the foundation slab that is necessary for the generator to sit on.

The AA brought up the seemingly high electric bill charges and he will check with WMECO regarding any savings gained by going through the Hampshire electric program. Also, it has been recommended the

Selectboard computer be replaced and the current computer be used for public access to the Board emails rather than printing them and then having to store the copies in folders. This will also be addressed later.

Maryann Walsh has volunteered to work on possibly redesigning the Town Offices.

Noreen motioned to adjourn, Alan 2nd, vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes.

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser