

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JULY 21, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:05pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; David DiNicola
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant (AA)

Bill Girard, Building Commissioner, advised the Board the software needed to bring the permitting process online costs \$500 with a \$350 yearly maintenance fee. Alan motioned to approve purchase, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0. Bill also said he spoke with Eric Main, Electrical Inspector, and he seemed receptive to having everything on line.

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: 412,461.41; Expense warrant for FY '14: \$7,950.94; FY '15: \$6,183.85.

Minutes reviewed and approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Howard advised board that former Council on Aging (COA) consortium director has requested minutes and other information regarding Executive Council. Request has not be made directly to Middlefield COA.

Fire Chief Ron Radwich met with Board to update status of department training. Fire Fighter 1 requires members to attend 2 nights a week and every Saturday. This is difficult for volunteers who have jobs and families. He does do in house training for his volunteers. There was additional discussion and Ron will check at the next meeting of the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs to see if there are plans for courses to be offered. The department radios have been updated by Motorola at no charge to the Town.

Howard advised the Communication Committee will be checking the Bancroft and River Road areas to see what type of radio reception is available from Northampton control. These are areas that are difficult for Berkshire's signal to reach.

Kathy O'Brien told the Board the hall is ready to paint as it has been washed down, she just needs the paint. She will be cleaning the walls in the auditorium next. There was discussion about the posting board to be placed on the fence at the Transfer Station as well as the fact the containers come

back with material still in them. The truck driver is not allowed get out of his vehicle to make sure the container is empty at the recycling facility.

AA advised he will be meeting the hood installer to determine what has to be moved as far as the electrical outlet, gas line and fire alarm are concerned. He also left message for Rida Plumbing as they have not submitted plumbing bid for the hand wash and vegetable sinks.

Eric Main was reappointed on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 after discussion and learning he still wanted the position. Eric also discussed the “trailer park’ issue. When he inspected the electrical, he went with a state inspector as well. The Building Permit was issued for an agricultural storage shed and that was not what he found. He would not sign off on the permit and still has not. He found this was being used as a campground and that the sites did not have ground fault protection. He did make them comply with the ground faults.

Eric also requested his home phone number be put on the Town web site to make it easier for people to contact him as he does not have cell service in all areas.

Town Center was discussed next. The Town Center Committee (TCC) received a document from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). This document was from a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) outlining what is needed for the General Store grounds. The TCC would like to speak with Town Counsel, Kopelman & Paige (K&P) regarding the possibility of K&P writing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a LSP. If the property is to be cleaned up LSP is the next step. Howard questioned is there was money available for this. There was additional discussion and Alan motioned to authorize up to a \$1,000 be spent by K&P in writing the RFP. Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, met next, the raises approved by the finance Committee for FY ’15 were to bring Ron and Matt Radwich’s hourly rate to \$19.40 and Skip’s to \$22.40. Alan motioned to approve, Hoard 2nr; vote 3-0.

Dave questioned on how the road projects were decided, Alan advised the Board relied on Skip’s expertise and the amount of Chapter 90 money that is available. Dave suggested the highway dept might want to look into

purchasing a used wheeled excavator as it is much more versatile than a back hoe

In Open Forum, Wally Smith wanted to know when the Townspeople get to decide on the General Store. He wanted to know why the Townspeople couldn't vote now as he felt it was unfair for this committee to be deciding what to do with the building. There was extended discussion regarding the various possibilities for the building and site. Alan explained the Town does not own the property and is not responsible for any incidents that may occur on the property. The property is in Tax Title and has not been taken. If the Town does take title to the property, it will be up to the entire Town to decide what is to be done to the property. The committee can only make recommendations, the members of the committee do not agree on what the best course for the property and buildings are. Alan suggested Wally attend one of the TCC meetings and make his feelings known there.

Howard advised the contract for replacing the Senior Center roof was signed and the building will also be painted and the back stairs to the 2nd floor will be repaired.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola

