

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Larry Pease from the Middlefield Fair spoke to the Board regarding the well water testing being done at the Fair Grounds. Health Agent, Jackie Duda, had tested the water twice and it failed both time. The Fair had an independent test performed and the water passed. When a 2nd test was done by this lab, the water failed. The water will be tested again this Wednesday and if it fails, the Fair has made other arrangements to bring water in for use during the Fair.

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

Alan spoke to the Board regarding the Town Center Committee (TCC). He has been in contact with Senator Downing's office and Mass Development; there may be funding dollars available for the Town if the town does take the property. The TCC is going to meet on August 13th and hopes to speak with Mass Development. The TCC will either present a synopsis paper to the Town's people or hold an informational meeting; it has not been decided at this point which it will be. The TCC is holding off on requesting a RFP as both Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Berkshire Planning Commission use a firm named TRC for their Licensed Site Professionals.

Next item discussed was the upcoming auction of 92 River Road. The Board agreed to have the AA place a legal add in either, or both, the Berkshire Eagle and Hampshire Gazette depending on cost on a motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; 3-0 vote. The AA will decide which is the best option.

Jack Guyette questioned the Board on a meeting from last July regarding the properties of low value and if this property was considered a property of low value. It was explained, the properties of low value were properties that may be "landlocked" and only of interest to abutters. These properties could be taken by the Treasurer without having to go through our Tax Title Attorney.

It was agreed by the Board to have the Treasurer attend the next meeting to discuss the progress on the low value properties as these have been hanging for years on the tax rolls with no action or payments being made.

Alan also informed the Board he had received a call from TD Bank regarding an overdrawn account that required immediate attention. The Treasurer did not make the transfer into the account. He gave the bank Jane's phone numbers and advised the bank to call back if they were not successful in reaching Jane. He did not hear back.

Howard forwarded a list he received in the mail from Don Munger, Town Handyman, regarding what he felt was needed to make immediate and necessary repairs. List is attached.

The Trailers on Clark Wright Road and Town Hill Road were also discussed. The Building Commissioner and Constable Charlie Hunter were going to these properties to inspect them.

In Open Forum, a couple complained about the condition of Reservoir and West Hill Roads, and that many roads in town were in bad shape. There was discussion regarding the roads and the

limited budget the Town has for maintaining roads. Dave noted he had received a complaint as well and when he inspected that road he felt it was not in bad shape. Dave said the past Selectboards did not seem to be involved with the Highway Dept and he noted that Skip works hard and donates a lot of free time to the Dept. It was agreed this will be discussed in depth at a future meeting. Dave does have expertise in this area and he will address it.

Joe Kearns, HCOG representative brought the Electric Aggregate Affidavit to the Board for the Chair's signature. On a motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0, Alan signed.

Joe also informed the board the window installer would be inspecting the cracked window in the auditorium and determine if it was a stress crack or caused by something else.

Michael Brighetti complained about junk cars being stored at a residence in Town as well as a trailer and what he believes is an outhouse on property on West Hill Road.

Sherri Venditti says there seems to be confusion between what the Health Agent and Building commissioner say, and they are sometimes in conflict with each other.

Judy Hoag questioned if some type of indoor/outdoor carpet may be used in the Town Hall offices. The AA will investigate costs, etc.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, told the Board he had underestimated the amount of time it would take to reconstruct Root Road and that he hoped to have the paving completed by the end of the month. During the recent heavy rains, parts of Cone Road and Upper Arthur Pease Road had washed out but he was able to recover and reuse most of the material.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:08pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola