

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

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

Alan motioned to open brief Board of Health meeting and to reconvene the
Selectboard meeting, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Selectboard meeting reconvened at 6:09pm.

Expense warrant of \$7,379.50 and payroll warrant of \$7,372.00 were both
signed.

Minutes of 8/18/14 meeting approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote
3-0.

Minutes of 8/26/14 meeting approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote
3-0.

Board discussion on the Assessor's request for use of Town counsel (TC)
that was approved at 8/26/14 meeting. Alan explained that Assessors are
independent, elected body that operates under its own direction but does
need approval from the Board to contact TC. Dave expressed concerns that
their actions may run the risk of dividing the Town and some residents do
give or donate to the Town. Alan stated the gifts have no bearing on the tax
issues and the personal property tax is governed by tax law. There are
concerns when the forms are sent and not returned or are not filled out
completely. The Assessors may be refused entry to a property and if that
occurs, they can tax on a best guesstimate of the property. Alan further
explained there has to be a level playing field for all to be treated the same.
Dave further worried about the past legal actions and if this would bring
about new legal issues. He wants the Assessors to proceed with caution.
Alan advised they were given a narrow window for their legal questions.

Don Munger, Town Handyman, told the Board he had repaired the lock and
the railing at the Senior Center, repaired the Playscape and is in the process

of repairing the handicap ramp at the Town hall. He will replace the locks on the boiler room door as well as the custodian closet. The keys for these 2 doors can not be found so the locks will be replaced. He will repair small things as he finds them.

Judy Hoag advised the Board that Middlefield Days is scheduled for October 4th with a rain date of October 5th. She also questioned when the repairs to the Senior Center roof would be completed by then as that area is used by the group putting on the event. It is not known how far along the roof repairs would be.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, met with the Board to provide an update on the training. He has purchased the handbooks for Fire fighting 1 & 2 as well as the study guide. He will be using these for in-house training. When the department resources are not available, he will seek outside resources to aid in the training. He explained, with a volunteer dept, not everyone can do every job and he will use his resources to the best of the individual's ability. Ron will return in November to give further updates.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, told the Board he had patched some of the potholes and will be continuing to patch and grade the gravel road. He requested bids for the use of the "pot hole" money provided by the State and LB quoted \$120/ton, Palmer Paving \$90/ton and he received no response from Tri-Town. This money has to be expended by 9/30 and invoiced by 10/30 in order to have the State reimburse the Town. He plans to pave from the bridge on Chester Road to the lower intersection of Alderman Road.

Also, he will be using a 48" culvert to replace the collapsed culvert on Arthur Pease Road. Prior to replacing, he will have to install coffer dams and pump the water out. He will be renting an excavator for this project and using 1 yard sand bags for his damming material.

Tighe & Bond, engineering firm that has been doing the water testing at the Town Garage, advised it will cost \$6,500 to complete the testing and reports for this year. In the last test, traces of a gasoline additive showed up and to Skip's knowledge, the Town never had any gasoline storage at the garage. He believes it may be the result of the former General Store's tanks.

He will not apply for the STRAP this year, but will pursue it next year in the hopes of obtaining money to repair one or two bridges as most towns do not apply for this grant to repair a bridge.

Board next discussed the Town By-Laws and Zoning By-Laws. Alan had spoke with the Attorney General's (AG) office and they will research all the laws submitted since 1987, however, a charge of \$100-200 may be incurred. Howard advised he had researched the Town Reports and came up with a list of By-Laws accepted by the Town; this list could be used by the AG to see if they were ever sent in for approval. After additional discussion, Alan motioned to allow him to speak with the AG's office and request they research, there would be a \$400 cap on the costs, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mary Courtney will be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the Personnel Policy she had started to develop when she served on the board. She has continued to work on this policy.

AA to follow with Mass DOT on the removal of the reflectors on Skyline Trail.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola

