

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
OCTOBER14, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Brian Dodge requested 5 minutes to speak with the Board regarding property he owns on Chipman Road. The property is currently in Tax Title, he wanted to discuss the fact that he has a buyer for some other personal property he owns and wanted to guarantee payment of his taxes. Alan advised any dealings on the taxes would have to be conducted through the Town's Tax Attorney, Ron Berenson. He also had a complaint about the condition of the road but did not pursue it.

Warrants were reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$9,899.80; Expense: \$209,581.72.

Mutual Aid Agreement for the Police Department was approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and Alan signed.

Judy Hoag advised the Board the ZBA has repeatedly billed the Hudson's for the ZBA legal expense. The Hudson's requested that their application be withdrawn without prejudice. There was discussion on how to recoup this expense and it was suggested that no permits would be issued until the legal bills were paid. Howard suggested placing a lien on the property if it was legal and Alan said the ZBA could file a claim in Small Claims Court. Going forward the ZBA will refuse to hear any further requests from the Hudson's until payment is received.

Selectboard minutes of 9/15/14 were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 309.

Board of Health minutes of 9/15/14 were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote3-0.

Selectboard minutes of 9/29/14 were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Alan advised AA that Mary Courtney is to be scheduled for the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6pm to discuss the Personnel Policy she has been drawing up.

Also, the Emergency Management team is to be scheduled to meet with the Board at a meeting next month.

Dave spoke regarding Open Forum, he felt the assessors should have been on the agenda regarding their request to contact Town counsel (TC). Alan advised the Board made a

decision that any member could authorize up to 2 hours of TC contact. There was further discussion..

ZBA appointments were made: Terry Crean, Mitch Feldmesser and Judy Hoag were appointed. This was done as they had been previously elected and it was learned that the ZBA is an appointed body. The Alternates had been previously appointed and did not have to be reappointed. Howard suggested that TC be contacted and have them draw up a document to be sent to the legislature for approval. .

Next item discussed was the Bill and Warrant procedures. The last bill paid under the Green Grant funding went over budget for the Grant funding and should have been kicked back to the Board for review and discussion as to how the overage would be paid. The Accountant was advised by the Finance Committee chair to take the balance from the Maintenance o Public Buildings Account. Howard suggested these procedures should be written down, codified and followed. There should be a set of operating procedures for each department the Board is responsible for. Dave said the Board has to assume everyone is getting the job done properly. Alan feels the Town should have a Town Manager so these things don't happen. That way there would be someone available to monitor and track the every day operation of the Town's finances.

Sherri Venditti thought Eric Weiss who was administering the Grant should known the final bill was over budget and brought it to the Board. The Board never knew the final portion was over budget.

The Fire Station roof was next. A bid of \$2,500+ was received from Betnr for repairing the roof. After discussion, it was agreed to defer these repairs. Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, said he would be willing to help the Fire Dept repair the roof.

In Open Forum Jan Hines was appointed Assistant Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Halloween Trick or Treating will be October 31<sup>st</sup> until 7:30pm. Chris Bresnahan will be organizing a free pizza party at 4:30pm in the Town Hall followed by a Rag Shag parade to the Town Center. the Middlefield Days group will have a bonfire at 7pm in the field behind the Town Hall as their original scheduled date was rained out.

Howard feels the Town should take the appropriate steps to make sure all of the road that had be discontinued in the past were done legally, even if it means bringing them back to the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) for another vote. Harry Pease Way still shows up on the Assessor's map despite a Town Meeting vote to remove it at the 2012 (ATM).

Dave suggested the speed limit on Skyline Trail in the area of his home be reduced to 40mph as it is the only place on Skyline where the limit is 45mph and vehicles are going much faster. Alan suggested he contact the Police Chief and have him set up radar in the area.

Howard advised he spoke with TC on the Council on Aging consortium is being set up. It will include 5 towns.

Also, the Town Electrician position never went to the Town to create the position. There was discussion and Alan said the Board can create the position. At the next Town Meeting the position could be funded as a separate item. The advantages of having a Town Electrician are many: any repairs or improvements would not have to go out to bid, they could be done by the electrician; that person could figure out the best way to improve the electric supply to the Town Hall and other Town buildings. Currently, an engineer would have to be hired to address the needs.

Skip Savery advised the threshold has been raised to \$35,000 before a job has to go out to bid, under this amount can be done by securing 3 quotes. He also said town needs to have someone in place to make sure we are getting what is needed and getting the biggest benefit for our money. The tires are off the grader and will be replaced. He has to fill the sand bags for the coffer dam on Harry Pease Road before he can replace the culvert. Also, he is going to work out a swap with Hinsdale for the old chipper that is in the Post Office parking lot, this chipper is no longer legal for the Town to use and Hinsdale can use it for parts. The bridge on Chester Road has been narrowed to 22 feet as the State Inspectors determined the upstream support has deteriorated to such an extent it is no longer safe. He installed a guard rail to narrow the bridge and make it safe for traffic.

Dave said he has spoke with Skip regarding the use of blacktop shavings on some of the hills. This will be tried next year. The only disadvantage is the road will not be able to be graded and any holes would require patching with blacktop.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola