

Selectboard Minutes
July 15, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; Mitch Feldmesser
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm to open Board of Health Hearing (BOH) and will reconvene at conclusion of BOH hearing on motion by Alan, 2nd by Howard. Vote 3-0.

Selectboard meeting reconvened at 6:50pm with all present.

Tax Title Attorney, Ron Berenson and Treasurer, Jane Thielen, met with the Board to review properties that are in the process of being taken by the Town for unpaid taxes. There are some owners that are making payments to get their taxes caught up but Ron said he needs to know when payments are missed so he can follow-up with those property owners. There is a property on Chipman Road that contains 15 acres and the owner owes in excess of \$10,000. This is a property that he will pursue as it will bring the Town monies when it is auctioned off and then be returned to the tax rolls. Also, there are 5 or 6 properties of low value that the Treasurer can handle, the DOR website shows how to process those properties, these are usually only of interest to any abutters. If his office were to process, it would cost about \$400/property. The Frederickson property on River Road is now owned by the Town, the former owner has 1 year to pay all back taxes and then could retain the property. Once the year has passed, the Town will own it free and clear and can auction it off and retain any monies from the sale. Ron will go after the properties that owe the most back taxes and since the Town appropriated additional Tax Title funding, he can be more aggressive.

Next discussion concerned the parameters of the Building Commissioner (BC), it was felt there is an expectation of him being in the office during the times of his posted hours and when he is not in, it is his responsibility to post this information. Whether it be vacation or out doing inspections. A question of obtaining monthly updates was also discussed, specifically as to the progress on some of the old issues that were pending before his appointment. Mitch felt the focus should be on one of these issues at a time. Also, some applicants have been afraid to voice any complaints as they may have to continue to deal with the BC in the future. Quarterly meeting with the BC may be held in the future to better keep the communication lines open.

Andrew Kurtz of Paradise Solar was requesting the final payment for the Town's solar installation. There are still a couple things the Board needs to be completed before signing off and issuing the final payment. The basketball hoop has to be repaired and a question of the electrical hookup has to be addressed. Also, the Board requested 2 copies of an Owners Manual for all of the components of the system.

Susan Baker-Donnelly, Council on Aging (COA) questioned the Board on their discussions about the COA at the prior meeting when she was on vacation and not able to present her information. She also said a portion of the State grant given to the COA is returned to the Town

for payment of some of the utilities on the building. The COA has also applied for and received various grants from both the State and Federal government. Currently, the COA is waiting on the results of the Block Grant application for repairs to the roof. The Selectboard asked Susan to respond in writing to Howard's documents.

The final discussion of the Board centered on perhaps hiring a Town Electrician. Currently, John Savery, has been most helpful and cooperative in assisting the Town with its many questions but the Board feels it is unfair to him to be doing this at the expense of his own electrical contracting business. This will be further discussed at a future Board meeting.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd, vote was 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser