

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Expenses: \$18,069.04; Payroll: \$10,528.32

Minutes of last meeting approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed: HCOG Electrical Aggregate discussed and Attorney Generals office has requested submission by each town individually for the group. HCOG has sent submission for Boards signature. On motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 to have Alan sign as Chair.

Solar array accepted and will check with Eric Weiss and written documents to follow from WMECO representative, Carla.

Alan gave written parameters to Building Commissioner for his review and request to respond with his thoughts.

Jay Harper appointed to fill vacancy on School Committee caused by Brian Miller's death on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Council on Aging (COA) was on agenda and extensive discussion ensued. Patricia Suriner spoke of the creation of the COA around 1980 and that she has been involved in it for every year. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) was instrumental in obtaining grants for improvements to the building and she would like to see the COA continue and use the Senior Center for their activities. Marge Pierre said she would like to be appointed to the Board of Directors as she feels a responsibility to the older seniors and would like to get more people involved. Suzanne Lemieux, Caral Merrill and Kim Baker all submitted letters requesting appointment to the Council. Alan said the Judy Artioli had also expressed an interest to him and Howard stated he was also interested. Howard felt the physical plant repairs would be a priority and that he would bring a different view point to the COA. Susan Baker-Donnelly advised the COA Board met once a month and sometimes more often to discuss special matters. There are 2 positions: Chair and Director, the Chair receives no pay and the Director receives a stipend and can not serve on the Board. Cathy Roth said there is no Director at this time and "friends" are keeping the COA going. The Selectboard will need to appoint a temporary chair until the new members can meet and elect a Chair. Since there were 9 applicants, Mitch felt all 9 should be appointed, Alan had 6 names for the Board and Howard 7. Judy Hoag suggested since all are volunteers, why not appoint them all. Howard felt the Board should be kept small. Mitch said they all have different areas of expertise and should let

each do their specialty. Alan said there were ramifications as to who is appointed and how the Board is run, it needs to have functionality and stay and work together.

Marge Pierre said it may be time for significant change and what are the options of who is chosen. Alan said it was appropriate to have a new Board and George Reichert is interested in assisting the new Board. Reichert assists a number of small town COA's and is well versed in these matters.

Sherri Venditti stated the Town has difficulty in getting volunteers and when there are willing volunteers, why not appoint them all. The COA is the core service organization for the seniors and all should be heard.

Susan Baker-Donnelly, prior Director, felt the COA primary purpose was the care and welfare of seniors and neighbors, she felt by being the Director, she could give back to the Town. She worked in obtaining grants and without them the building would have fallen into major disrepair. She also said she has been trying to get more seniors involved so she could retire after serving 7 years. Mitch felt Susan should be appointed as she would be the only holdover and could help with the transition.

Alan noted the people he would like to appoint: Marge Pierre, Kim Baker, Howard Knickerbocker, Judy Artioli, Judy White, Caral Merrill, Marge Batorski and Priscilla Suriner. The appoints are for one year. Mitch questioned why not appoint Susan as she has the expertise and let her pass on her knowledge and that Suzanne Lemieux was as qualified as anyone. Alan said the COA needed a change in management and it was time for fresh faces. He is aware of how much work Susan did and that she didn't need to be a member to contribute.

On a motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 the above were appointed to the COA Board.

Cathy Roth said Susan should be recognized and appreciated for the tremendous amount of work she has done for the seniors.

Alan motioned to appoint Marge Pierre as temporary chair, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0. a permanent chair will be chosen at the first COA Board meeting.

Mary Courtney addressed the Board regarding a Personnel Policy that she had started to undertake while a member of the Selectboard. This covered expectations of employees, benefits, vacations, holidays, etc. She volunteered to put together a final draft and present it to the Selectboard. There was discussion and she will meet with supervisors and have them review the policy and submit a final draft to the Board. Alan motioned to allow Mary to finish the draft, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0. The draft should be completed by the end of October.

Judy Hoag advised the Board that "Middlefield Days" will be spread out over a number of weekends rather than the one weekend in past years.

Judy also presented a list of appointees for the Cultural Council: Ruth Feldberg, co-chair; Maryann Walsh, co-chair; Judy Artioli, Charlene Gero; Tracy Gero and herself.

Alan motioned to appoint, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and all appointed.

Alan also motioned to appoint Chris Bresnahan to the Recreation Committee, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 to appoint.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, advised the Board he will be deposed regarding the Jamula driveway. Also, Tighe & Bond will be doing water tests on the test well at the highway garage to test for contaminants. It will need four rounds of testing. He will be working on a culvert on Root Road and submitting paper work for his Chapter 90 reimbursement. The new hauler for the Transfer Station containers ripped out the steps and they will have to be repaired.

Joe Kearns alternate for Wired West, advised Steve Harris had to resign due to a possible conflict and Joe is willing to accept the position. This also applies to the Mass Broadband also. On a motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0, Joe was appointed to those positions.

Howard suggested an Ad Hoc Committee for proposed By-Law changes to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting. Sherri Venditti, Michael Feldberg, Steve Harris and Howard were suggested as possible members. Alan motioned to create committee, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser