

Selectboard Minutes  
November 12, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Bob Barry, Mass Emergency Management, spoke to the Board regarding an Emergency Management Grant that has been awarded to the Town for \$1,790. Emergency Management Director, Bob Hoynoski, had applied for the grant. The money will be used to install a radio repeater on the roof of the Town Hall. This will improve communications for the Police and Fire departments. Howard questioned the specs of the repeater but Barry didn't know, he advised the request was generic and once the grant was approved, the Town will decide which is best. Howard will contact Bob and discuss specifics with him. On a motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 2-0 grant was accepted and Alan signed the contract for the grant.

Warrants were approved and signed. Payroll: \$10,627.13; Expenses: \$21,252.62.

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

Board member Mitch Feldmesser arrived at 6:18pm, he had forgotten the new starting time of the meetings.

First item discussed was the gift of land to the cemetery. Alan spoke with Ron Berenson, Town Tax Attorney, and was advised the acceptance will have to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). Ron suggested Town Counsel draft a warrant for the ATM.

Alan motioned to adjourn at 6:26pm to move to a Board of Health (BOH) meeting and S/B will reconvene. Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0.

S/B meeting reconvened at 6:37pm. All members present.

Next item discussed was the Council on Aging (COA). Howard had supplied various by-laws and suggested the Town COA pick and chose which ones were the best for the Town. The COA could adopt their by-laws or have them approved at the ATM. Howard was authorized to speak with Jonathan Silverstein, Town Counsel, to see what Town should do in regard to adopting by-laws.

6:45: Pole Hearing requested by Western Mass Electric and Verizon for installation of pole on Skyline Trail. Nicole was present for WMECO. She advised there was one tree that would have to be cut down. There were no citizen objections to the pole installation. Alan motioned to allow the pole with the added stipulation noting the tree would be removed. Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0.

Eric Weiss addressed the Board regarding the Green Grant and the bids received for the new furnaces at the Town Garage and Fire Station. The low bid on the Garage was submitted by O'Connell Oil for \$13,774. A total of 3 bids were received. After discussion of what to be installed, type of fuel used Eric recommended the Board accept the bid from O'Connell. Motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0 to award to O'Connell.

The same bidders bid on the Fire Station and again O'Connell was the low bidder, \$10,538. The heating system in the Station is different than the Garage. Additional discussion on the type of system to be installed and on a motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 Board accepted the O'Connell bid.

Both systems will be fueled by propane and the tanks were not included in the bidding. After discussing the pros and cons of owning/renting the tanks it was decided the Town would be best served by owning the tanks. That way the price of the propane is less and also gives more ability to find the best price for the fuel.

Eric provided a spreadsheet (attached) showing the costs to date spent From the Green Grant. Also, what the anticipated costs of the other projects included in the Grant application. There was discussion on the installation of the windows and doors at the Garage and those will be put out to bid shortly.

Eric also requested that he be able to sell the SREC's generated by the solar installation. He is the Sustainability Director for Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) and as such has a market for them. HCOG takes 4% to cover their costs. The Board agreed to allow HCOG to market them.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, discussed the Transfer Station with the Board. He would like to have some of the ledge removed to make it easier for the recycle boxes to be repositioned. This would allow for neater collection as well as easier snow plowing during the winter. Skip will have the ledge removed.

Last item on agenda was the prioritized list for the Building Commissioner. Howard felt there were some statute problems with some of the issues and that pursuing could again be seen as selective. He felt these issues could become expensive due to litigation. He proposed pursuing the car issue as it may be the quickest and easiest. Alan said he was tired of hearing how it could cost the Town and still have people complain that nothing was being done to rectify these issues. Mitch said the Board should pick one issue and deal with it. Howard felt if the Town is going to pursue one issue, it should pursue them all at the same time. There was discussion regarding the Hudson property, Crepeau, Cone Road campground and unauthorized repair shops. The Board felt it may be best to hold a hearing for the residents to gauge the interest in moving forward and see if there was interest in allotting additional monies for Town Counsel. A date in January was suggested for the possible hearing.

There were no responses to the request in the Country Journal for a Recording Secretary or Town Electrician so these positions will be placed in the help wanted classifieds. The

AA will send to the Country Journal. Wally Smith questioned why the Town would want an electrician. It was explained this would avoid bidding issues for electrical work, make the process faster and save the Town money in the long run.

There is a vacancy on the Conservation Commission and Alan advised Tom Ryan has shown interest would like to be appointed. Alan motioned to appoint, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 to appoint. AA will send letter to Ryan,.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser