

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
APRIL 22, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$7,050.25; Expenses: \$23,386.99

Minutes reviewed and approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote: 3-0.

Mail reviewed.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, brought paperwork to be signed. This is for the additional funding provided by the State for “pot hole” repairs as result of severe winter weather. Skip also advised board of problems with the transmission on the Ford 550. He will see what can be done to make repairs as inexpensive as possible.

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was reviewed, Article 16 was agreed to be sponsored by the Selectboard. Mitch discussed placing article on the warrant for the hiring of a Licensed Site Professional to inspect the former General Store property. After brief discussion, it was agreed this matter could be place on a warrant for a Special Town Meeting when more information is obtained. The Warrant for the ATM was signed and given to the Town Clerk for posting.

Replacement of computers for the Accountant, Treasurer and AA was discussed. Some of these computers use the Microsoft XP program and updates, help and protection are no longer available from Microsoft. Review of expense balances for each showed enough funds available to replace the computes. Steve Harris, Communication Committee member, to investigate for best purchase price. He felt cost should be around \$400 for computer and additional \$129 for 24” monitors. He also would like to have Kurt Zinnack integrate the systems. On motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0, Steve was authorized to purchase the computers with the assistance of the AA.

Steve also advised the board that he and Joe Kearns had installed additional wireless ports in the building and that the fiber optic network would be turned on Friday. He is continuing to investigate a replacement phone system for the Town Hall.

Extended discussion on improvements to the Town Hall included the need for additional electrical outlets, upgrade of the electrical service including bringing the power to the building underground. Also, soliciting photos, art, etc from residents for display on the walls. Sherri Venditti suggested some of the historical photos in the museum be copied for display.

Kitchen clean up is continuing. AA advised he has only been able to obtain 2 proposals from companies to install a fire suppression system above the stove. They are from Allstate Fire and Mass Fire Technologies. Pittsfield Fire did not contact AA despite request and giving of various phone numbers so the kitchen and stove could be seen. Also, a plumber and electrician need to be contacted for proposals to complete the kitchen clean up and make it available for use. on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 AA was authorized to move forward on the kitchen project.

Eleanor Doyle spoke to the Board requesting permission to use the kitchen for a Pancake Breakfast on Mother's Day. This will be sponsored by the Fair Committee. She had spoken with Gerry Garner, Building Commissioner (BC), and was advised if the Fire Dept were willing to stand by with a fire truck, charged hose and 2 members in turn out gear, he would allow use of the kitchen without a fire suppression system in place. Eleanor advised Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, was willing to provide the needed protection. As this discussion involved the Board of Health (BOH) Alan motioned to go into a Brief BOH meeting at 7:08, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 to move to BOH meeting.

BOH meeting convened and Howard motioned to allow use of kitchen per BC guidelines, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 to allow kitchen use.

Alan motioned to adjourn BOH meeting, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and BOH meeting adjourned at 7:10pm and Selectboard meeting resumed.

Dale Hoag brought 2 different ceiling tiles to Board for their choice on the replacement tiles for the ceilings in the Town Hall. Board went with the textured tile. The original tile pattern is no longer available and Dale will use what he can save so as to keep the differences minimal.

Dave Dinicola advised the Board he is not able to get on the Town website, his neighbor has no problem but he would like this investigated. He also questioned where the money for the Town Center would come from. Board advised Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is looking into possible grant monies available and donations are being accepted. Lastly, he suggested if any work done in the Town Hall, the Board should lean toward having local residents do the work.

AA advised the Board he had been in contact with the leasing agent the USPS has retained to handle lease negotiations. The leasing contact will present proposal to the Town for review.

Joe Kearns brought the Board up-to-date on the Worthington request to withdraw from Gateway. The Home Rule bill has passed the State Senate with many amendments and will go back to the House for review. There will also be another GTAC meeting this Saturday at 11am in Stanton Hall, Huntington. There will be an increased financial burden on all the remaining towns in the district and Worthington will also have to fund their share of the liabilities such as loan repayment, post-employment costs, etc.

Joe also advised he attended the Municipal Electric Aggregation hearing and testified on behalf of the Town. Wired West is requesting a \$1,000 fee to continue their pursuit of the “last mile” connection for high speed internet in the Towns. The State has committed 50 million dollars in additional funding.

It was noted the Zoning Board of Appeals report was omitted from the town Report, AA will make copies and insert into the Town Report.

Sherrri Venditti questioned why the minutes of the ATM were in the Report but the warrant was not always included. There was brief discussion and attempts will be made to include the warrant in future Town Reports.

Selectboard meetings will be held on April 29, May 12 And May 27.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser