

SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm by Clerk, Howard Knickerbocker, in absence of Alan Vint, Chair; Selectboard member David DiNicola also in attendance.

Administrative Assistant (AA) Duane Pease present.

Howard motioned to go into Board of Health meeting and then reconvene Selectboard ((S/B) meeting, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0. S/B meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

S/B meeting reconvened at 6:03pm.

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$11,602.65; Expenses: \$13,794.88

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

Howard spoke on the future of the Council on Aging (COA). He is currently the Chair but has no desire to continue in this position after this Fiscal Year. The COA has not been able to get more people interested and participating. Suzanne Lemieux is the lunch coordinator and Judy Artioli coordinates transportation for doctor's appointments, etc for the elderly. There are currently 8 members on the Board but none are interested in chairing. There was extended discussion on the future and ways to involve more people. Possibilities included combining with another COA to provide additional activities. It is necessary to keep the current COA in Middlefield as the building has received grants based on the COA needs. The COA does hold foot and flu clinics for residents. Sherri Venditti said the current members have an attachment to the building socially and emotionally and it provides a warm environment for them. And perhaps, there needs to be a director to handle the day-to-day operation and have a hands-off board.

A spread sheet from WiredWest was recently received by the Town; it breaks down the bonding amounts for each town that is being pursued by WiredWest. Middlefield's bonding would be approximately 1 million dollars. Discussion included the responsibility of the Town to pay the bond at 4% interest until WiredWest can turn a profit and there is no guarantee as to when that would be. This would be a potential liability to the Town for 30 years. Bond approval would required 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote at the Annual Town Meeting.

The paper work on the Green Grant is not completed and the Town will not be able to pursue the next round of grants at this time. Grants were to be awarded up to \$250,000.

Two petitions were submitted for a Special Town Meeting (STM) to change the Assessor's position to elected and also to have one assessor and hire an independent appraisal firm to handle appraisals. There were not sufficient signatures on the petitions as 20% of the registered voters are required to call a STM. Also, the time line was not

met; it had to be 60 days before the ATM plus the 14 day posting requirement. AA to advise Patricia Baker of this.

Highway superintendent, Skip Savery, advised he had overspent his snow budget and requested the S/B approve an additional \$10,000 of spending. After brief discussion, Howard motioned to allow up to \$10,000 at this time, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 to approve overspending.

Skip also advised he had received a phone call from Bill Rogers regarding property his sister bought on Ryan Road looking to have work done on the road. This portion of Ryan Road has been discontinued by the Town so no work will be authorized.

Skip will also check the generator as it did not automatically turn on during today's power outage.

Howard advised Tamarin Laurel-Paine had requested the re-start of the Green Community Energy Committee; that will be addressed at a future meeting.

Tom Scanlon responded to AA's email regarding an audit, he would be available in May or June to perform the audit. AA will send formal request to him.

Howard motioned to adjourn, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Howard Knickerbocker, clerk

David DiNicola