

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

MAY 11, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Jim Berry of DOER spoke to the Board regarding the reporting requirements of the Green Grant the Town had received. The grant funds have been expended appropriately and he is willing to aid the AA in completing the reports needed. These reports are on an Excel spread sheet.

Barry also advised a new grant became available today, it is an OATA (Owners, Agents Technical Assistance) grant that allows for the hiring of professionals for technical assistance up to \$12,500. Howard felt this would be of great benefit for use on the Senior Center,

Barry also spoke on SolarizeMass which is a once a year offering for towns joining with other small towns to apply for reduced costs in installing solar voltaic systems. The State puts out the Request for Proposals. There is diminishing interest in this program as only four towns applied in the last round. SolarConnect is another solar program that is geared toward groups rather than towns. Depending on participants, there can be financial savings by the size of the group purchasing.

Warrants were reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$9,216.80; Expenses: \$26,067.36.

Minutes approve on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Contract from Complete Disposal for Transfer Station was received and signed by Alan on his motion, Howard 2nd; 3-0 vote.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, advised the new pumper has been registered and that Great Barrington Fire Dept. also contributed additional equipment as well as Egremont. Alan noted this purchase was the result of hard work by Dave and Ron.

Goals and Priorities:

Howard: Town Hall electric upgrade; work on radio coverage areas; create current list of By-Laws

Dave: work with Finance Committee prior to Annual Warrant to review costs and meet with various departments to discuss same; 5-6 year plan for major expenses; Senior Center heat costs.

Alan: Personnel Policy; set fines and fees for various infractions/usage.

Maureen Sullivan questioned the Board regarding the Town Center. Alan advised the DEP has requested one more well be drilled and tested and there may be a temporary solution for the one contaminated well. It looks optimistic at this point.

The Hudson lawsuit was discussed next. There was frustration on the part of the Board as the Hudson's have not complied with prior orders and requests to remove the outhouse and continue to use the structure illegally. Alan said the Town has to draw the line and defend this as there are other situations in Town that also need to be dealt with. Everyone has to comply with the Town codes and By-laws. This will set the precedent for the others.

Dave felt the Town needs to negotiate with the Hudson's as they can drag this out and the prior Town leaders never enforced the rules. Alan disagreed and feels it is time to take a stance on this.

Alan also questioned Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, on transferring some funds from the reserve account to the Town Counsel account to cover these unexpected legal costs.

Steve Harris reported he had ordered 4 chairs for "test sitting". The Fair and Senior Center has expressed interest in the old auditorium chairs once the new chairs arrive.

Sherri Venditti spoke of some old documents that were recently brought into the Town Hall. These are prior to 1870 and need to be retained according to State law. There was continued discussion as some of these are duplicates and are stored elsewhere. Archival boxes will be purchased and the records stored.

Alan motioned to adjourn the Selectboard meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss strategy for the Hudson lawsuit. The Selectboard meeting will not reconvene.

Alan, Aye; Howard, Aye; Dave, Aye; vote 3-0 and Selectboard Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola

