

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JULY 6, 2015

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Alan motioned to go into Executive Session to have conference call with Town Counsel to discuss negotiations regarding the Hudson lawsuit and reconvene the Selectboard Meeting. Howard 2nd; vote: Alan, Aye; Howard Aye. Executive Session commenced at 5:01pm

Meeting reconvened at 6:06pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; David DiNicola
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Andy Myers from Chester Theater met with the board to discuss some housekeeping issues with the Theater's use of the auditorium and restrooms. (The TA had spoken with members that were rehearsing previous to this meeting.) There was discussion regarding picking up at the end of the day and maintaining the bathrooms in a clean fashion. Andy was very agreeable and will sure to relay this message. The custodian noted an improvement since the TA spoke with the group. Andy also dropped of the \$350 rental check and some free tickets for the theater.

Markelle Smith of the Nature Conservancy and Mark Robinson met with the Board to discuss the Merrell property. The Merrell's are planning on selling 148 acres of their property to the Nature Conservancy and Markelle has been putting the plan together. There will be a conservation restriction on the property. Before this property can transfer, the Selectboard needs to give statutorial approval. Alan motioned to approve, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Warrants were approved and signed. Payroll: \$14,785.75; Expenses: \$23,957.78.

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

Dave spoke regarding the Fire Dept. and qualifications that Dalton requires for their volunteer firemen. Dalton currently has 3 full-time firemen and all of the volunteers are required to complete the Fire Fighter 1 course. This course takes 3-4 months to complete.

Alan said there will be a conference call Friday at 1pm with MassDevelopment, the licensed site professional the TA and him. This call will discuss the next step the Town will need to take to apply for funding from MassDevelopment.

The historical Document Committee was appointed, members appointed on a motion by Alan, Dave 2nd; vote 3-0 are: Michael Feldberg, Sherri Venditti, Suzanne Lemieux and Marge Batorski.

Chris Bresnahan was appointed to the Recreation Committee on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Alan purchased a chair at BJ's for comparison with the others to be purchased for use in the auditorium. Many in attendance preferred this chair to the others previously purchased.

There was discussion on why the overhead projection did not work during the presentation by Jonathan Silverstein of Kopelman & Paige. This had worked previously. Steve Harris was not sure if it was the laptop Jonathan used or some type of encryption on the drive. This will be further investigated and in the future we should request the drive in advance to avoid this problem.

Priorities for the TA were discussed; TA feels the most important item is to develop a Personnel Policy for the Town. He will be reviewing one template received from MIIA and reviewing other policies from similar towns. Also, he will be looking for available grants with the assistance of Bernie Kubiak from HCOG.

Sherri Venditti wanted to know the status of the Town Center Committee. Alan advised the Selectboard is attempting to find funding for the Brownfields and that was not a concern of the committee. There was continued discussion regarding the Town Center and the future of the committee.

Michael Brighenti questioned some of the illegal structures in Town. He was advised the Building Commissioner (BC) had sent out a number of Cease and Desist orders to many of these owners.

Dave said there is a shed at the Transfer Station that needs to be taken down and replaced; it is no longer safe for Kathy to enter it. TA will arrange for HRMC, Joe Kerns, recycling coordinator and Kathy to attend a future meeting to discuss options and possible grants to replace this building.

The BC spoke to the Board regarding his use of his personal phone for emails and calls. He is worried this may open up his phone to his personal calls and information if a law suit were filed and his records were requested.

He also said one of the persons, Dussault, he sent a Cease and Desist order to came into the office earlier today. There was discussion regarding this structure built in the 80's and whether or not it was permitted. Proper frontage is also an issue in this case and if he can prove there was a road existed; Mr. Dussault will research the records at the Hampshire registry of Deeds and if he has a legal right he is willing to put in the improvements necessary. Alan stated he would like to resolve as many of these issues as possible.

Alan motioned to adjourn the SB meeting and not reconvene and open a Board of Health Meeting, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:35p.

Board of Health Meeting opened at 7:35

Discussion regarded Maitland Dowsey's property and the clean up of the outside. His daughter responded to the letter sent and advised she has Power of Attorney for her father. She will be coming to town to continue the clean up on Wednesdays, she was informed the Transfer Station is open on Wednesday and the attendant will be notified that it will be okay for her to dispose of the materials there. TA will notify Kathy of this.

Alan motioned to adjourn the BOH meeting, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola