

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JULY 20, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Board member David DiNicola, absent

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he has replaced some culverts and continues to do blacktop patching. He is also starting to keep a work log.

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

Mail reviewed: a
Alan signed the Veteran's Agent agreement.

Updated Board on the Town Center and discussion with MassDevelopment. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has exhausted their funds for any remediation and conference call was held with MassDevelopment (MD) as they have available funding. One more well has to be drilled and then the water tested, if the test results are within the allowable limits a temporary solution would allow the Town to move forward with the property. Of the 2 wells already drilled and tested, one is minimally above the limit and the other is well below the limit. MD does not provide financing for rehabilitation but would fund demolition of the building. Alan spoke with our Tax Title Attorney and he has been in contact with the DEP attorney and they are putting together a package that would alleviate the Town from the lien DEP filed when they cleaned the area. There was continued discussion regarding the store and adjacent house and possible uses for the house if the store were to be demolished.

Next item discussed was releasing the final \$1,000 due the contractor on the Senior Center roof project. This was held pending the lawn repair, the money is to be released and TA will notify PVPC.

Howard advised the ceiling in the museum has some severe water damage and some of the tiles are sagging. This damage occurred prior to the slate roof being replaced. If the wainscoting continues throughout the entire ceiling, it may be best to remove the tiles and repair/repaint the wood.

High speed internet was next on agenda. Howard advised it is the Communication Committee's (CC) intention to bring interested parties in to discuss their options for providing service. Leverett has completed their system and Crocker Communications is their provider. AXIA has approached the CC and is willing to price out a system for Middlefield and if chosen as the provider is willing to contribute funds to develop the

system. The CC recently learned that MBI had an engineering study done on the Town a few years ago; this was never shared with anyone in town. MBI is willing to have the study updated. The CC will advise when this is completed. There was discussion regarding the system and what the MBI grant money will be spent on. The CC will be putting together a report once they get a dollar amount on what AXIA proposed. The CC will also be attending a meeting in Worthington regarding the bonding options for the towns.

The TA will be handling the new contract with Verizon; this is a State contract that Towns and other municipal entities can tie into.

Judy Hoag presented 2 names for the Cultural Council: Andrea Tosi and Eleanor Doyle. On motions by Howard, Alan 2nd both were appointed on 2-0 votes. TA to send letters to both.

Howard advised the COA will be reimbursing drivers directly for mileage as the FRTA which had previously reimbursed is requiring more driver testing and that would eclipse the \$500 stipend they provide. The question came up asking if the drivers would be covered under the Town's liability coverage in case of an accident. The TA will confirm with MIIA.

Last item brought up was the COA consortium. The State provided \$40,000 to the consortium; this money will be used for their outreach program. Huntington is also coming back into the consortium.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk