

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2015

Meeting opened at 5:30pm.

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

Alan motioned to adjourn Selectboard (S/B) meeting and open Board of Health (BOH) meeting and reconvene S/B meeting after BOH meeting. Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and S/B meeting adjourned.

S/B meeting reconvened at 6:00pm

Residents brought complaint about barking dogs to Board. Dogs belong to the Burmer's who live at 140 Arthur Pease Road. Animal Control Officer, Terry Andrews, was present and said she had gone to the Burmer residence once last year; she stopped down the road from Burmer's house and did not hear the dogs barking. They did bark when she went to the house but stopped shortly after she arrived. His dogs are all licensed. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting. TA to send letter to Burmer requesting his presence at the meeting on September 8th.

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

Mail reviewed: email received with complaint about condition of some of the gravel roads. Brief discussion ensued and Alan to inspect with Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery.

Alan then spoke of Howard Knickerbocker's recent resignation from the S/B. Howard has had some health issues and the recent meetings have taken its toll on him. Dave said the residents didn't realize the amount of good work he did, compiling the Town Report among other things. In Dave's 32 years of living in Town, people seem to dwell on the bad rather than the good people do, people have to work together. Seniors like Howard like to be productive and he is very disappointed with Howard's resignation. We have to move forward and focus on the good people do.

Alan added Howard had a high level of integrity and put in a lot of hours. He did not always agree with Howard but the Board will miss him.

Next discussion was on holding a Special Election to fill Howard's remaining term which runs until the May election. Dave felt there should be an election to avoid any tie vote deadlocks. Assistant Town clerk, Marge Batorski, said the residents could petition the S/B for an election if they got 20% of the registered voters to sign a petition. There was continued discussion on this and Alan said there was a time line that would have to be followed if the Board voted to hold the election. There would have to be submission of

candidates for a caucus and then the election. Marge said the caucus and voting hours would be held from 4-8pm on whatever days were decided upon.

Alan motioned to hold the Special Election, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 to hold a Special Election. The dates will be determined at a later date.

Next on the agenda was discussion on the Personnel Policy. There is no written policy for the Town that can be found, the TA is working on developing a policy. Discussion at this meeting centered on vacation and sick leave. TA had called some of the surrounding towns and found many variations but most did limit the sick leave to an accumulated 30 days that can be carried from one year to the next. Some towns allowed vacation to accumulate with no limit as to how much while others limited it to a carry over of 4 weeks plus whatever was to be earned in that year.

Joe Kearns spoke that while he was employed as a teacher he was allowed to accumulate as much sick leave as he could. He said this gave financial security to the employee if he were to be stricken with a long recovery from an injury or accident. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

In Open forum, Joe brought up the status of the new underground electric service to be brought to the Town Hall. This should be completed before the ground freezes. TA will follow with Eversource

Alan motioned to adjourn, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town
Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola