

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola; Robert Costa  
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,776.66; Expenses: \$52,049.48

Mail reviewed; nothing of any importance.

Steve Harris, Communication Committee (CC) Chair, advised the Board he had had no response from the Mass Broadband Chair regarding his request for the Town funding that is part of the broadband initiative being funded by the State. The CC has been working tirelessly in developing alternatives to WiredWest and needs a monetary commitment from MBI before it can proceed with any further development or possible testing. The CC has been working with an engineer, Fred Goldstein, in the possible use of a wireless system. Hawley and Royalston are also looking into this type of system. There was further discussion regarding alternatives. If there is no response from MBI, the Board will send letters to our State Senator and Representative to see if they can assist us.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board that one pad has been poured at the Transfer Station, this if for the bulk container, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> won't be done until Spring. He will put some crushed stone down for the winter and put the other container on that for now. Miller Petroleum should be repairing the Town Hall fuel tank within the next couple weeks; he will break up the concrete pad and then replace it when the repairs are completed. Both of the small trucks are ready for snow. Currently they are blowing leaves out the ditches along the road. Skip noted he has bought different type plow blades, they are carbide tipped, come in sections and should last 2 years.

An ad will be placed in the Country Journal for a replacement for Ron Radwich who has retired. It was commented that Skip does a good job on keeping the roads in shape during the winter while the surrounding town's road can be pretty iffy.

Dave spoke about the GTAC meeting he attended in Huntington. Representative Pignatelli spoke to the group and discussed consolidating some departments and equipment among neighboring towns. This would help in curbing the escalating costs associated with Town's budgets. Even the thought of combining superintendents of the school systems should be looked at. The Gateway budget has been defeated by 3 towns and now the Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education will take over the budgeting for the system. There was discussion on the high costs of having students bussed to vocational schools rather than teaching some of the classes at Gateway as had been done in the past. The population in the western part of the state is shrinking while it is growing in the eastern portion. Dave said in 10 years at the current spending rate the taxes will be

so that a retired person won't be able to afford to live in the area. Alan commented that GTAC is starting to be proactive and that is good.

Alan motioned to go into a brief Board of Health Meeting; Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and Selectboard meeting adjourned at 7:10pm and will reconvene after the BOH meeting.

Alan advised the board that Attorney Powers, who represent The Preserve, is refusing our Health Agent access to the property for an inspection. It is believed The Preserve is not in compliance with the health requirements. The Health Agent is checking on an Administrative Search Warrant.

Alan motioned to adjourn the BOH meeting and reconvene the SB meeting, bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

SB meeting reconvened at 7:15pm.

Assistant Town Clerk, Marge Batorski, advised the Board she will be resigning on 12/19/15. She feels Suzanne now has the knowledge to handle the duties.

Bob Hoynoski submitted his resignation as Emergency Management Director. Ann Marie Visconti may be interested in the position. The TA will contact her and have her meet with the Board at the next meeting.

The Building Commissioner is going to issue a Condemnation Order on the former general store as it is unsafe. There was brief discussion on what to do to secure it. Alan motioned to have the doors padlocked; Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and the doors will be secured.

Final discussion was regarding the Selectboard meeting with the various departments for a review of their budgets prior to the Finance Committee preparing the budgets to present to the Selectboard. These meeting will begin after the first of the year.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa

