

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
DECEMBER 21, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Robert Costa  
Duane Pease, Town Administrator  
Absent: David DiNicola called and will be late

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$13,146.99; Expenses: \$11,383.60

Minutes approved on motion by Alan, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0

Mail reviewed.

Alan gave brief update on Town Center: DEP has given verbal okay on forgiveness of liens on former General Store. Town will have to sign formal agreements with DEP on sale, reimbursement, etc. also, MassDevelopment does not have any funds available at this time for demolition.

Alan motioned to appoint Carol Waag to Town Center Committee, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Terry Crean requested the Board appoint Curt Robie as alternate to ZBA. Alan motioned to appoint, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Discussion on former landfill located on property owned by Anita Myers. Comprehensive assessment sent to DEP in June 2009 and never got response back. Kathleen Casey of HRMS is following on this. Landfill was closed in the 70's and current owner bought property 7/8/88.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he had mowed the area today and left a message for the engineer from Huntley Assoc who did the original assessment. He has received 4 applicants for the vacant highway position. It was agreed to set up interviews for the 1/4/16 meeting.

Dave arrived at 6:53pm.

Communication Committee (CC), Steve Harris, Joe Kearns and Leanne Every, spoke to the Board regarding status of their research and recommendations for high speed internet for the Town. There are 3 possibilities: fiber throughout the town; wireless or hybrid system. The CC has been in discussion with Fred Goldstein, an engineer, regarding a wireless system; the preliminary cost of this system would be in the \$500,000 range and would be paid for by the Town's share of the Mass Broadband contribution. This would require a pilot program to be run in the spring to make sure all areas could be reached. This would cost approximately \$100,000.

There was extensive discussion regarding the speed of the service, number of users on at one time would decrease speed, once State money is spent, the Town is stuck with this service. There were recommendations that 16 miles of fiber be used and wireless to the remainder of residences and that way the Town could slowly add more fiber when funding is available from taxes. CC member, Joe Kearns, would prefer to install fiber to all at this time and attempt to have the State provide more funding to the towns.

Joe and Steve met with Fred Goldstein and a Mass Broadband (MBI) representative in Westboro to discuss Middlefield's plans. There are other towns that are working on wireless and one of the issues would be the overlapping signals between towns. They are attempting to obtain firm answers from MBI on costs and financing. MBI has also got to provide leadership for all the towns so high speed internet can begin no matter which option towns choose to use. Joe said trying to get a commitment is like pushing jello. The deadline is June 30, 2016 for towns to commit.

Dave suggested Middlefield may have to do a piecework system to be able to afford it.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa