

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$8,616.89; Expenses: \$16,236.06 & \$5,9895.44

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

Mail reviewed; nothing of importance.

Board met with Angela Mulkerin, Service Director of Hilltown Community Ambulance. Hilltown is proposing that Middlefield join the ambulance service as the service provides 24 hour service to 6 of the Gateway towns. The service is staffed at the paramedic level for all but 2 overnight shifts. This level of service allows more medical services to be administered to patients at the scene and enroute to a hospital. Hilltown hires mostly local employees, is a non-profit organization, applies for grants to help defray the costs and was formed when the Lion's Club ambulance service dissolved. The current fee is \$19.09 per capita; however, Middlefield would be charged \$1,995.42 for the first year with a 5% increase over the next 3 years and then a 10% increase per year until it reached the per capita cost. The service will also put a patient's medical history on a flash drive that would be available if ambulance service was needed; this is paid for through a grant the service received. There is also a yearly subscription that individuals or families may join that waives all ambulance charges that ones insurance does not cover. Hilltown received 618 calls in 2015 and responded to all but 56. The 56 calls were calls that had to be passed to their back up service as the ambulance was already out on another call. There was much discussion regarding the service, the town's aging population and the benefits of 24 hour coverage. The current ambulance service comes from Hinsdale and is staffed by on call volunteers.

Board next reviewed the warrant with members of the Finance Committee. There was discussion on many articles and the board agreed to recommend the articles discussed. There are some articles that would change the current by-laws and were written by Town Counsel. These include the right to refuse a permit to homeowners that were 12 months behind on their taxes. One article involving the updating of radios will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

An update on the MBI/broadband internet was discussed with Steve Harris, Communication Committee. It appears MBI is backing away from its all fiber networks as they realize not all towns can afford the fiber to the premises costs. MBI is putting out a Request for Proposals for a wireless study. Middlefield has already done this and has been in discussion with MBI on the funding of our pilot study. There was further discussion as to impact this would have on the town, would any cost over runs be paid for

by the users or passed on to the whole town through the tax rate. Bob felt it would not be fair for non-users to have to pay for this service. Joe Kearns attended a meeting that included Governor Baker via Skype and 80% of the questions asked of the Governor concerned broadband.

Ann Marie Visconti advised the Board the CodeRed was tested on April 1st, 184 phones were called, 16 text messages were sent as well as 3 emails. She is continuing to push for all residents to sign up. The Board discussed what other notices may be distributed over the CodeRed rather than just emergencies. It is believed a contact list could be developed for various interests in the town such as a call to notify seniors of a flu clinic.

Last item was the Chester Theater's use of the Town hall auditorium for the summer. Board agreed to allow with the fee of \$350, theater will have to agree to make sure town activities have priority. The Town Administrator will contact the theater and also request 30 vouchers for this year.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Bob 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa