

SELECTOBARD MINUTES
JULY 13, 2016

Meeting opened at 2:00pm

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

Meeting held to discuss Wireless Pilot Program and costs and management associated with it.

Alan said under the Pilot, there is \$25,000 for management of the program that includes any work done by Town Council, Highway Dept. and MLP manager.

Dave stated he was absent from the 5/31/16 meeting in which Steve Harris was appointed the MLP Manager and Fred Goldstein the engineer. He feels the manager of the build out of the pilot should have qualifications and that the Chair of the Communication Committee might have a Conflict of Interest in being named the MLP manager if he is to collect a salary or other financial remuneration for the position. Alan stated there were multiple meetings and conference calls with MBI representatives to discuss the Pilot Program and the management cost was discussed. Alan assumed Dave and Bob Costa, former Selectman, were aware that it was a paid position. Dave said he may or may not be qualified but he had not seen a n application.

Alan said Steve has been working hard on this for 2+ years and wireless is a much less expensive option than the fiber optic system. Steve has been working with Fred for over a year and they brought the project to the point MBI was satisfied that it was feasible and award the \$129,000 grant to go forward with the pilot. Middlefield was the first town to obtain funding from MBI.

Dave said the process today was not what he expected. He felt Town Counsel (TC) did not get all the information and the Board should have a meeting with TC to go over this. Alan advised Dave to contact TC and discuss with them. Dave said his goal is not to hold up the pilot but to make sure it is done right.

Maureen Sullivan said there was \$25,000 set aside for management for 6 months and does that mean it is \$50,000 for a year. Alan stated the \$25,000 was for the manager, legal costs, any work the Highway Dept. did, accounting, etc.

During further discussion, Dave was told to contact Steve and Fred and ask the questions he wanted answered. Alan also stated it is not an option for the pilot program to come in above the budget approved by MBI. MBI will be watching the pilot during the process.

Bob Costa said when he voted on Steve and Fred there was no discussion on money to be paid to them. Howard wanted to know if anyone tested the program or evaluated to see how well it would work. It appears to be a foregone conclusion that wireless would work.

Alan explained there has been interaction with MBI, Fred and Steve and wireless is a viable solution for the Town. Howard as said this wireless is not sustainable and can't possibly work and WiredWest has proved a small town can not do it on its own. The Selectboard members had agreed the town would not bond or borrow over 1 million dollars for the fiber option. He said this is not for him as he had DSL from Verizon but 60-70% of the Town can get DSL and the only other options are dial-up or satellite.

Sherri Venditti questioned the projections and costs associated with an ISP and noted that was not included in the pilot budget. There should be measurable results and the manger should be an objective 3rd party.

Alan said the board is doing the best job they can and 3rd party to observe would be a good idea. Dave felt this pilot project is moving too fast and the information should be checked to make sure it is accurate.

Lawn mower was discussed next, Alan motioned to allow Town Administrator to go ahead and purchase mower in consultation with Highway Superintendent using the State bids, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

Alan motioned to adjourn the Selectboard meeting, open a board of Health (BOH) meeting and not to reconvene the Selectboard meeting, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 3:06pm

BOH meeting opened at 3:06pm with all present.

Meeting held on request received from Mr. Dussault for his request for a “tight tank” septic system for his property on Skyline Trail. he claim the property is seasonal. Health Agent Jackie Duda said a tight tank system is usually not allowed. There will be further discussion on this at a later meeting. Dave is very familiar with septic systems as installing systems is part of his business. Dave will check with Jackie and the Building Commissioner.

Tamarin Laurel-Payne questioned is there was enough frontage for this property and was told the property is on an old private way so Dussault is able to create the frontage needed.

Tamarin was appointed to the Hilltown CDC on motion by Alan, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

There was further discussion on the Pilot Project in Open Forum. Sherri said this is the largest expenditure in a decade by the Town and it is a priority for the further livability of the town. She wanted to know how the engineer would be paid, hourly, on a contract. MBI should be more involved as the pilot goes forward who has the townspeople’s interest and is protecting them.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and BOH meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola