

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

Present: David Dinicola, Chair; Denis Basak
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Minutes of 11/13/16 approved on motion by Dave, Denis 2nd; vote 2-0.

Mail reviewed: letter received today from Building Commissioner (BC) explaining exempt uses for education, religion and municipal uses that are allowed by-right. Bill Girard, BC, was call into meeting and discussion followed. It is his interpretation that the town's Zoning would not require the Town to seek a Special Permit to erect the wireless tower.

Police Officers Michael Marcus and Lucas Horn were appointed on the request of Police Chief, Tom Austin, after discussion among Board. Tom plans on using these officers for training and there is money allocated for training in his budget so no further funds will be needed. The motion to appoint was made by Denis and Dave 2nd, vote 2-0. TA to send appoint letters.

Library trustees had recommended Lois Bell for the 3rd position on the Library Board of Trustees. Dave motioned to appoint, Denis 2nd; vote 2-0. TA to send appointment letter.

Dave motioned to call for a Special Election to fill the vacated Selectboard seat, Denis 2nd; vote 2-0 and Special Election will be ordered by Town Clerk. Dates will be confirmed at next Selectboard meeting.

Slocum Lot was discussed next. This is a 77 acre parcel owned by the Town that is "landlocked". TA had contacted an abutter who is willing to give the Town a temporary right-of-way to harvest the timber. This person also expressed an interest in buying the parcel it was something the town wanted to put up for bid. There was discussion about possible future use of the property. Sherri Venditti suggested it could be used for a solar installation. If this were to happen the Town would need a permanent right-of-way or purchase an abutting property.

Dave spoke with Ron Berenson, town Tax Attorney, regarding the 2 properties in the Town Center. They are in Tax Taking and the Town could take possession as early as next month. A question did come up regarding the electric meters that are still in place on both buildings, the town does want to be responsible for any charges Eversource may have been levying since the buildings were abandoned. TA will contact Eversource to see if the meters can be removed.

During Open Forum Judy Hoag advised that October Days will be held on 10/15 with a rain date of 10/16. The Town Flag will be unveiled at that time and Senator Ben Downing will be present.

Emergency Management Director, Ann Marie Visconti advised the Board she attended a meeting regarding the possibility of pursuing an ambulance service. The active group is Huntington and Russell, Blandford is also involved. She is not sure if Middlefield is interested but went to the meeting as an observer. She also noted she had a conversation with Mike Morrissey, Russell Fire Chief and was told our insurance carrier, MIIA, does not cover Junior Firemen. TA will follow with MIIA to see if this is accurate.

Aimee Gagliardi came to the Board looking for a permit to drill a well as their current well has ran dry. She said her husband had left a message for Health Agent Jackie Duda but had not got a return call. She was advised if this was an emergency to go ahead with the drilling and the Board would contact Jackie.

Terry Crean also asked the board if the settlement reached with the Hudson's whose property abuts his was ever recorded on their deed and if not, the Town should record it. TA will check with town counsel to see if this should be done. Terry also questioned the current situation and if the test pit for an alternate leach field is the same pit that was dug a couple of years ago when the Hudson's attempted to place a septic system near the road. He was given a copy of the letter from DEP showing this test pit was not being used and that another had been dug.

Denis then spoke of the wireless broadband and he felt it important that some type of high speed service be brought to town. He has done some research and is encouraged that it is still a possibility to salvage the pilot program. He questioned if the project could be re-bid, modified, broken into sections and could the Highway Dept. do some of the work?

Dave said he is still obtaining some of the legal information and correspondence that Alan Vint had obtained from KP Law and that once the grant was received the Communication Committee went full speed ahead and the Selectboard was left out of the loop on some things.

The pay for the MLP manager should have been discussed by the Board and then agreed to with the manager, Dave questioned if the position should have been advertised. Denis said there did not appear to be any intentions to "flim flam" and there was an honest attempt to bring this service to the town wondered what can the Selectboard do as the MLP board and where do we go from here.

There was continued discussion between Denis and Dave regarding this. One issue was why there were no local bidders on the project and could this have gone out as a Request for Proposals rather than the bidding process. Sherri Venditti suggested and meeting with MBI, Selectboard and Communication Committee.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Denis 2nd and meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Denis Basak