

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2106

Meeting opened at 6:05pm.

Present: Denis Basak; Judith Hoag; Chair David DiNicola on vacation

Duane Pease, town Administrator

Denis spoke on the role of Selectmen, he gave an overview of what to expect, members will not be perfect, team work is needed as well as consensus of opinion and compromise. Also, government works slowly.

Newest member, Judy Hoag, said she has to listen and convey residents' wants and also guide the Town.

The Hilltown Collaborative is continuing with its objectives of researching shared services for the six towns as well as economic development. There is a consensus among the towns to push for a turnpike exit in Blandford now that the toll plazas are discontinued.

Think Board item discussed was future use of General Store site. Denis felt wishful thinking would be to have fuel available to townspeople and transients. Need to think outside the box for future uses.

Also, communication with residents needs to be improved as not all look on town web site. Facebook, Twitter, etc. were discussed, Steve Harris, web master, said he could link site to both. Also, reverse 911 possibilities for providing non-emergency notice to residents. Quarterly news bulletins could be included with the tax bills.

Final item discussed was a review of the wireless information available. Steve Harris and Joe Kearns of the Communication Committee (CC) spoke with the Board about this. Steve said the planning process and budget for the Pilot were reviewed by MBI and the \$129,000 was released for the project. Testing would be done with both full foliage and no foliage with multiple antennas on the test houses. This would provide information as to what worked best in each location.

After the bids were opened and came in much higher than expected the CC looked to alternatives for the tower. The best choice was to install a guyed tower in the same location. XX towers of NH inspected the site and gave an estimate of just under \$10,000 for the tower and \$10,000 to install it. Steve and Joe inspected a homeowner in Peru that has 6 guyed towers of various heights that were installed by XX Tower. Use of a guyed tower would be less expensive and the pilot area could be expanded. Judy had concerns about the zoning and wants to check with the Building Commissioner. Also, the engineering costs are approaching the amount designated in the Pilot and she wanted to make sure these costs would not exceed what was budgeted. Steve said that Fred would not charge for any services over what was budgeted and would send a letter to that effect. There was further discussion between the Board and CC regarding service providers, pole installation, purchase of radios, billing, etc.

Denis motioned to adjourn, July 2nd and meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Denis Basak

Judith Hoag