

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2016

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Denis Basak; Judith Hoag
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Warrants reviewed: Payroll of \$23,167.98 signed; Expense warrant questioned as payment to XX Tower for installing anchors for guyed tower was not approved. Amended expenses \$173,624.051.

Denis motioned that since Steve Harris was put in charge of Pilot Project billing this be approved as this was within his authority. Dave and Judy did not 2nd motion.

Denis stated he has been denied access to most communication between Selectboard (SB) Chair and MBI that he had requested from Chair. Denis also said that MBI does not run the Pilot Project, the MLP manager does and the SB is in charge of the MLP and the MLP manager answers to the SB. Dave said the Pilot had been put on hold while the SB reviewed the previous high bids and he had been in communication with MBI regarding going forward. Dave said there was a transparency and communication issue between the SB and Communication Committee during this process. Dave also stated he had been in contact with Town Counsel (TC) regarding the Zoning issues he foresees. Denis questioned who gave him permission to speak with TC. Denis then motioned to re-vote the SB Chair. Neither Dave nor Judy would 2nd the motion.

Judy said she had reviewed notes from previous meetings in order to further understand as she does not want to make an uneducated decision on this. Denis said the Pilot was approved by MBI and the Town should go ahead with the project. There was further discussion, Dave acknowledged Steve had done a lot of work and that members of the previous SB put their faith in Steve to carry out the project. When the two bids came in over what had been budgeted, Dave feels we need to start from scratch. Originally it was said the wireless internet would not cost the Town any money as the completed project was under the total MBI allotment. He is not sure MBI will give the Town the dollars allotted for engineering even if the town has done all the engineering. He feels this should be a decision made by the voters at a Special Town Meeting. Denis suggested holding an information meeting for the residents. Judy would like to meet with the MBI engineering representative, Cornell Robinson, and then decide to choose their engineering expertise or not. She would also like to see what the readiness process entails.

Judy also has concerns regarding the Town By-Laws, Zoning and if property set backs apply to the Town, she would like to speak with the Building Commissioner. There may be the need to change a by-law or apply for a variance from the ZBA. Denis said the BC had previously submitted a letter to the SB stating the town had a "by right" to build the tower. Discussion continued, Denis motioned to get the Pilot Project moving, Judy said

she would agree after issues discussed were reviewed with TC and clarified to her satisfaction. Dave 2nd the motion with Judy's amendment; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 12/5/16 meeting approved on motion by Dave, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 12/12 /16 meeting approved on motion by Judy, Denis 2nd; vote 2-0. Dave was on vacation for this meeting and did not vote.

Tax Classification Hearing held. Gita Jozsef, Assessor Chair, met with the Board to make recommendation on the tax rate for the Town. Assessors are recommending a single rate for all properties. This is recommended as the Town only has approximately 4% commercial property and a split rate would not provide any benefit. With the single rate, the tax rate for all will be \$17.63; this is a decrease of 22 cents from last year's rate. Dave motioned to set the single rate, Denis 2nd; vote 3-0 and single rate set.

Planning board has voted unanimously to request the Selectboard appoint Kim Savery to fill the last remaining vacancy on the Planning Board. Kim and one other person interviewed for position. Dave motioned to appoint Kim, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed nothing of importance.

Personnel policy discussed briefly, this will be further discussed at future meeting.

Open forum: Sherri Venditti felt the topic of Think Board was too broad for Agenda item as no notice to public of specific issue.

Town Hall will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24th.

George Propane went to Senior Center to inspect furnace and give quote for replacement.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Denis Basak

Judith Hoag

