

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

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

Caucus Warrant was signed by board.

Warrants reviewed and signed; payroll: \$9,560.53; Expenses: \$27,933.49
and \$14,167.27.

Minutes of 2/13/17 approved on motion by Judy, Denis 2nd vote 2-0 with
Dave abstaining as he did not attend meeting.

Minutes of 2/27/17 approved on motion by Dave, Judy 2d; vote 2-0 with
Denis abstaining as he was absent from meeting.

Email from Health Agent, Jackie Duda, requesting Board approval of \$75
expenditure for here Title 5 license. Dave motioned to approve, Judy 2nd;
vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed nothing of importance.

Town Accountants would like confirmation of any grant received prior to
her setting up the account.

Ray Gero spoke to the Board regarding having the Town become a Purple
Heart Community. Ray brought the documentation needed to apply
including the Proclamation. The first recipient of the Purple Heart is buried
in town, Elijah Churchill. He was given the Medal of Merit which later
became the Purple Heart by George Washington. There was continued
discussion and Dave motioned to have the Town become a Purple Heart
Community, Denis 2nd; vote 3-0. TA will file the paperwork needed.

Next item on agenda was the insurance coverages. The contents coverage for the Highway Garage is being reviewed by Skip to see if the contents are properly covered. Also, the contents of the Senior Center and Museum may be limited; there is \$25,000 for Fine Arts coverage which would cover some of the articles in the museum. However, there are no appraisals for the items and many are just historic to the town. TA will check for additional coverage if necessary.

Dave advised the former General Store and adjacent house were tested for asbestos and lead this past week and he expects the reports to be forthcoming soon. The lead test was only necessary for the store. If there is under 1% asbestos found, it can be removed by anyone, if over, then it has to be removed by a licensed company. This was further discussed, when the furnace was replaced in the Town Hall, Abide did the asbestos removal and the asbestos was transported to PA. it now has to go to GA. Town Report was discussed next; TA has sent requests to all departments, committees, commissions, etc for their reports and has followed up. Some have been received and others promised. It was agreed that 200 copies will be ordered. TA will check with last year's person, Bob Costa, for his input. Still have to decide on dedication, etc for the report.

High speed internet was last item on agenda. Dave has spoke with Whip City to see if they would take a look at Middlefield and WiredWest wants to set up a meeting with the Town. That meeting is scheduled for 4/8 and the board will have questions ready for them. Discussion continued on this as this is a big decision faced by the Town as fiber would cost in excess of \$1,000,000 and a loan would have to be obtained for this. Communication Committee Chair, Steve Harris, said they are still looking at all options for the Town. Another issue involves the Zoning By-law and the set backs from property lines if the wireless is to go ahead. Many believe the Municipal Use exemption does not apply to the set backs and a change in the By-law would be necessary. Jay Swift felt any changes should be presented to the Planning Board, however, if it a Citizens Petition is presented the Selectboard and Planning Board have no say and the article will go on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Dave said it is up to the Selectboard to make informed decisions but in this case, it should be up to the town to make the decision as it is going to involve more money than provided for by MBI. Denis said there was not enough funding for the wireless project but since MBI has released the

engineering funds there is enough for the Town to construct a wireless network within the budget the Communication Committee submitted. It would be prudent to put the wireless in motion if the town so chooses and be ready to go.

There was still further discussion regarding the zoning issue and the Town's right to construct a guyed tower. The current by-law exists to protect property owners from potential harm and any "spot zoning" is really a bad idea. Maureen Sullivan, former Planning Board member, said by-laws were passed in the past for specific people and the Board should not pursue the spot zoning for the tower. Safety, and fall zones have to be considered.

Jay Swift said he didn't disagree and the goal is not to spot zone but fiber will never happen in Middlefield and wireless may be the only option.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Denis 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Denis Basak

Judith Hoag