

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:05pm

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

Board reviewed Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant with Finance Committee, this is draft of warrant. Question on Article 3 of increase in Town Clerk salary; Town Clerk was present and explained increase in hours and duties and she requested increase. Board agreed. Also discussion on Article 4 and then board agreed with all proposals.

Articles 4, 5, & 6 were agreed to; Article 7 was incomplete; Articles 8, 9, 10, & 11 were agreed to. There was discussion on Article 12 and Judy as COA Director explained reasons for increase and that was agreed to also.

Articles 13, 14, & 15 were related to the Gateway budget and were discussed minimally, there is going to be a concerted effort by the member towns to vote down the transportation portion of the budget in hopes of sending a message to the legislature that transportation reimbursement is greatly underfunded for the towns.

Article 25 was discussed next, this a proposed change to the By-Laws regarding the Town's ability to construct structures without the burden of following the Zoning By-Laws. There was discussion as to who sponsored this change as it was not credited to anyone/board, TA is to follow with Town Counsel on this matter. This was not a Citizen's Petition.

Article 27 requested \$10,000 be taken from the Stabilization Account for use by the Fire Department. Chief Ron Radwich explained this money would be only used if the Federal Grant for the Air Packs were received. This would cover any shortfalls in the grant money. After brief discussion, Board agreed to the article.

Dave asked Ron if the roof at the Fire Station had been addressed, Ron said it had not at this time.

Ron also advised the Board that the department lost a member over the weekend, Jonathon Dewkett passed away on April 1st and the services are scheduled for Thursday.

Planning board presented Selectboard with proposed amendments to the By-Laws at last meeting; Selectboard has no problems with proposed changes.

Dave advised the preliminary testing for asbestos and lead at the former General Store and adjacent house have been received. A full plan with measurements will be sent to Board. Maureen Sullivan questioned if there was money in the budget to proceed this

year or if it will have to wait until next year. There was discussion on this and PVPC may have some abatement money available and Mass Development had mentioned there could be up to \$50,000 for demolition available in the past.

Dave said he had spoken with Bill Ennin at MBI and Comcast may be interested in cabling Middlefield. The high speed internet possibilities are changing rapidly and more players are showing an interest in the smaller towns. Maureen said that the people that have Whip City Fiber are very happy and Middlefield should also investigate that possibility. There is a meeting scheduled with WiredWest this Saturday at the Town Hall but with all the changes, it was voted to cancel the meeting.

Howard Knickerbocker said he was confused by Article 25 and who sponsored it and if it was legal. TA to check with Town Counsel on this.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag