

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
MAY 8, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:04pm

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

Board reorganized; Judy motioned to retain Dave as Chair; Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and Dave retained as Chair.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$7,305.50; Expenses: \$147,780.34.

Todd Ford, Executive Director of the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) addressed the Board regarding the HCOG, its services and benefits it provides. The COG operates with no Federal or State Grants and is funded through fees charged to its members as a result of purchasing goods and services through the COG bidding process and the revenue raised by Hampshire Power. Hampshire Power currently has over 75,000 customers throughout the state. This service can reduce kilowatt charges by up to 15%. The COG also will provide a free IT assessment to its members and also offers Hampshire Web which will set up and maintain a Town's web site.

Currently they are putting together an RFP for providing HR services as well as a Records Review that will aid members in determining what documents need to be retained. Dave asked what grant funding may be available for the former General Store; Todd referred him to Bernie Kubiak who is a grant writer for the COG.

Minutes approved on motion by Dave, Judy 2nd; vote 2-0.

Mail reviewed and Chapter 90 contract signed by Dave. No other mail of significance.

Cemetery Commission, Larry Pease, met with the Board regarding the mowing of the cemeteries. Person that mowed last year will not be mowing this year. Larry said if no one could be found, he would do it but would like to receive payment for his services. Larry was advised to check with Ethics to make sure there would be no conflict. He also asked if the Highway Dept. could mow the cemetery behind the Town Hall. TA will check with Skip.

Personnel Policy was discussed next, TA had met with a life insurance carrier and a \$10,000 policy could be obtained for full time and part time employees at the cost of \$2.68/month. This would be free to the full time employees and others could opt in if they were willing to pay the monthly fee. Highway Superintendent has received copy of the latest revised policy.

Judy asked if the PVPC IT Survey was completed, TA advised it had been completed and sent back.

Also the Transfer Station vehicle stickers are in.

It was also discussed that if any member of the audience has something to discuss that would take 3 minutes or less; the Board should let them speak rather than having them wait until the end of the meeting.

Dave said he still needs to speak with Bev and Jane regarding the truck loan of the Ford 550.

Dave also said he received an email from Bill Ennin regarding the high speed internet. There was discussion regarding Whip City Fiber and Comcast as both may be interested in providing some services to unserved towns. Crocker communication sent a proposal for 1.9 million dollars to wire Middlefield. Dave feels Bill is doing what he feels is best for the town and not to rush into anything at this time. Dave said this is a mistake the town can not afford to make until all avenues have been fully explored. Joe Kearns, Communications Committee member said Steve had sent a hybrid system possibility to the Board.

Sherrri Venditti asked if the Board would consider reorganizing the agenda as Open Forum should be for the public and not for the Board to bring up new issues.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/with out changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag