

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

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

Board congratulated Al Sirard on his recent election to the Selectboard. He was also given a copy of the Selectman's Handbook distributed by Mass Municipal Assoc.

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

FEMA Mitigation Plan Grant was signed by Dave.

Contract with Northampton Veteran's Service was also signed by Dave.

Transfer Station was discussed next. Recycled cans and bottles are processed by the Middlefield Benevolent Association and attendant, Olivia, was not aware of this. She will inform Assoc. member next time the receptacle is near capacity. She is willing to put out barrels and make signs for this. Olivia will be moving out of town but will still handle the attendant duties at this time. The Board will meet with her to discuss possible hour changes and her need for a part time assistant.

Dave met with Bill Ennen of MBI and Bill would like to meet with the Board to discuss options for high speed internet. He will also have Ed Donnelly attend the meeting. Enin is then willing to come back and have an open meeting with the residents. Enin would like the meeting with the Board to start no earlier than 11am and be finished by 7pm. Dates agreed to by Board were to be either September 5th, 6th or 7th with a start time of 4pm or earlier. Dave will contact Enin and advise of date and time.

Under New Business Judy said that had spoken with Jon Gould and was told Verizon had been trying to contact the Town regarding phone service issues to no avail. TA has had no calls, voice mails or emails from Verizon regarding this.

There was discussion regarding the Town owned property on Ryan Road. TA would like to auction this property off, it is a 20 acre parcel that the Nature Conservancy is interested in. This would have to go to public auction and the Board would have the right to refuse any and all bids. TA requested the \$10,000 required to be submitted with the bid be reduced to \$5,000. Dave moved to reduce, Judy 2nd, vote 3-0. There was continued discussion and this will be put on hold for the time being as this property is on a Town Road that is not maintained and a buyer could request road be upgraded so a building could be erected. Also, briefly discussed was property on Chipman Road.

Dave questioned Police Chief Tom Austin on the repairs to the 4 wheeler, Tom said it was brought to the repair shop and the work done was needed. The 4 wheeler is stored in Bob Hoynoski's garage. Also, the older police cruiser is no longer safe to drive and will be taken off the road. Plate return will be brought in so insurance coverage may be cancelled.

In Public Input, former Transfer Station Attendant and Town Hall Custodian, Kathy O'Brien, said she had requested copies of all complaints filed against Highway Superintendent Skip Savery and did not get them. She stated she had filed 2 complaints against him. When questioned, she left the meeting without responding.

Terry Crean advised the Board he is the new member and the ZBA is alive and well. He questioned if the ZBA could have the authority to contact Town Counsel (TC) as in the past. ZBA chair just had to contact the Selectboard chair to obtain 2 hours of TC usage. There was discussion as this had been abused in the past, it was suggested that ZBA use the State resources and legal advice prior to requesting TC. Former Selectman, Howard Knickerbocker, said prior Boards had left initial request up to the Chair for 1-2 hours of legal advice if it was not possible to wait until the next Selectboard meeting. Sherri Venditti said this would fall under the cap agreed to with KP law and why not use to avoid future issues similar to the Preserve,

Judy questioned what Kathy was talking about before she left without explaining herself. No one seemed to know.

Next meeting to be on Tuesday, August 29, 2017.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard