

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$7,245.03; Expenses: \$19,154.29

Minutes of 8/28/17 approved with corrections on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 3-0

Minutes of 9/6/17 approved on a motion by Judy; Al 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed: only significant mail was \$25 fine from unemployment for failure to file timely report. Jane has said she will take care of this.

Dave Fuller requested the board appoint him to the Conservation Commission (CC). He has met with the CC and they would like him appointed. Dave motioned to appoint, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0 and Dave appointed to CC.

Mary Courtney, ZBA Chair, asked why access to Town Counsel (TC) had to go through the Selectboard as the ZBA has a budget and could use it for these services. Judy, as a former ZBA member, said that budget is for mailings, notices, etc. and would be depleted if it were used for TC. Dave said that the board in the past had authorized up to 2 hours of TC for board to use TC but would like a heads up as to what may be occurring. Mary said TC would only be used when necessary especially if there were time issues and the Selectboard meeting approval would be an issue. Board okayed use of TC.

Transfer Station fencing was discussed next; Dave said the entrance gate fencing is coming apart and should be replaced. The ideal repair would be for a sliding gate rather than the swing out gate that is presently there. Howard Knickerbocker said the town should look into a motorized gate. Judy said she is working with Olivia regarding the can and bottle returns that the Middlefield Benevolent Association handles. This is not part of the Transfer Station Attendant duties but Olivia will notify her when the bin is full. To date approximately 138 stickers have been sold. There was continued discussion on the Transfer Station including the possibility of having a "bag" fee put in place, more stringent enforcement of stickers and ways to make the station easier to monitor for the attendant. The attendant should be able and willing to aid the elderly unload their trash and encourage recycling. It is sometimes expectations vs. reality as the station can be extremely busy at times. There was also discussion regarding a cardboard compactor but the cost of that is unknown. Al felt there should be better signage for the disposal fees. HRMC does supply some signs and Kathleen Casey will be requested to come out at a later date.

Dave said he thought the 9/6 meeting with the MBI representative went very well. Dave is also going to have Dave Young of Warwick meet with the board as he is the "wireless

guru” that runs Warwick’s wireless high speed internet system. Dave will be checking dates with him. If Middlefield did construct a wireless system using the available MBI dollars there is the question of what the operating costs would be and if it would be affordable.

Judy said the board should revisit the Assessor issue and the hiring of Karen Tonelli to see if she has completed the specific work she was hired for.

Al felt the Board should have an Executive Session in the future to discuss the “Kathy” issue.

Joe Kearns advised the Board he attended the Executive Session held by the Huntington Selectboard with Attorney Jim Lempke regarding the Worthington withdrawal. The attorney will be attending the 9/19 hearing before the Appeals Court. He said the court could remand the case back, uphold the decision or order a new trial. Lempke does not expect a decision on this for several months.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard