

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,316.21; Expenses: \$103,287.59 &
\$152,933.91

Minutes of 9/25/17 approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0.

Mail reviewed: Gateway School Committee is looking for Board member to attend negotiating sessions with teacher's union. Currently Don Jacques of Montgomery represents the Selectboards and is willing to continue.

Correspondence from Town Council advised The Preserve has filed a motion for reconsideration of the Court's decision in favor of the Town's Summary Judgment.

Joe Kearns advised the Board the Lt. Gov. and MBI representatives were in Charlemont to meet with the Selectboard and answer questions regarding the high speed internet. One question that was not answered was why the town can't use the existing fiber along Route 2 for their internet.

Also, MBI has given an additional 1 million dollars to the towns of Tolland, Sandisfield and New Marlboro for construction of their systems by Frontier. Additional money was also allotted to Montgomery for Comcast's construction of their system.

Census LUCA form was passed over.

Police Chief Tom Austin met with the Board. He wishes to purchase Huntington's used Ford Taurus all-wheel drive unmarked police cruiser. This would replace the 2003 Tahoe that is no longer safe to drive as the frame has rusted out. Huntington is willing to sell to the Town for \$6,000. Tom would use \$3,000 from his budget and ask for the additional money from the Town. Finance Chair, Joe Kearns, said the money could come from the Reserve Account. All the lights would remain on the vehicle and the radios would be changed out from the retired Tahoe. The Tahoe has about 30,000 miles on it and should bring additional monies when it is auctioned off. Also, juveniles can not be transported in a marked cruiser and this creates a problem as the State Police would have to provide transportation. There was brief discussion and both Judy and Al were in favor of the purchase. Tom also stated that the officer training is ongoing.

Open Meeting Complaint was passed over as Town Council had not provided the draft response by meeting time.

Accounting function questionnaire from the Hilltown Corroborative was next; Board discussed the various questions and agreed the one area the Town would have the most interest in was regarding the Assessors. Assessor Tamarin Laurel-Paine felt proposals should be looked at with the possibility of having professionals handle these duties with the Assessors as oversight. Al felt one of the assessors should be an outside person and the Town would not need to have assessors or have them become appointed. He was advised the Town By-Laws would have to be changed. There was continued discussion on various possibilities for this.

Under New Business Wayne Suriner applied for the position at the Transfer Station and was invited for an interview. He is only available to work on Sunday. The board interviewed him, he said he was physically fit, willing to learn and ready to work. There was discussion regarding what would be expected and training available. Joe Kearns, Recycling Coordinator is willing to take him to the HRMC meetings and give him a walk through of the operations. On a motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0, Wayne was hired.

Also, it was noted that the “Middlefield Mall” (swap shop) at the Transfer Station was almost emptied out by the current attendant.

Judy requested use of the Senior Center and Town Hall for Middlefield Days on December 2nd and 3rd. The group leading this plan to have various functions and activities around the center of Town during this period. There will also be the awarding of the Gold Cane on Sunday and a bonfire Saturday night.

Also, the COA would like to have Sharon Barry and Crystal Main appointed to the Board to replace Ed Vivier and Judy. TA to send letters to the new members.

There is another party interested in purchasing the property owned by the Town on Ryan Road if it is to go out to auction.

TA advised of the HCOG Holiday Party and names of members that will attend.

Tax Classification Hearing to be first on agenda of next meeting.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Al 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard

