

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$9,763.40; Expenses: \$27,341.56.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, met with Board regarding letter received from Kathy O' Brien with complaint of snow being intentionally pushed over culvert on her property. Alleges this would result in flooding to her property and Town will be held responsible. Skip had highway employee take pictures of area and snow involved is result of drifting and nothing to do with normal road plowing. Skip took photos to Northampton Court as this is court that was involved in previous allegations against him by Kathy. He gave photos to court personnel and after a short time, was told to return following Friday to speak with Judge.

Also, Skip said there was a problem with the compactor as it was extremely cold. Waste Management was called to service unit.

Minutes of 1/2/18 approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 12/18/17 approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0 with Dave abstaining as he was not present at meeting.

Minutes of 1/8/18 approved on motion by Dave, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail: Howard Knickerbocker sent email raising issue of lack of publication of By-Laws. They are supposed to be published every 5 years and have not been updated or published since 1987. Town Clerk is aware and will be working on putting together all of the by-laws approved by Town Meeting and sent to Attorney General's office for approval.

Email from Andy Myers, Hilltown Collaborative Chair, regarding consolidation of assessors for the towns, Currently Middlefield's assessors are elected and town would have to vote to make positions appointed. Dave said he had spoken with Karen Tonelli who has been hired by the assessors in the absence of a 3rd assessor. Karen said the 2 remaining assessors are doing a phenomenal job and everything is going smoothly. There was discussion on elected versus appointed assessors and the need for a 3rd assessor to break any tie votes on issues that could arise. To change position from elected to appointed would have to be done at a Town Meeting, with the first vote being a hand count and the subsequent vote at following Town Meeting being a ballot vote.

Next discussion was regarding high speed internet. Matrix and Crocker's proposals call for using only fiber. Whip City will be sending their proposal and they use only fiber as well. Matrix's proposal to Middlefield depends on Worthington also opting to use Matrix; Middlefield would not stand alone if Worthington does not agree to Matrix. Maureen Sullivan said if the fiber is installed, all property values in Town would increase

but the only the users would be paying for the fiber and she felt this would not be fair. If all values go up, then all should have a hand in paying for the system.

Town Electrician, John Savery, met with the board to discuss the possibility of installing generators at the Fire Station and Highway Garage. He said it would cost approximately \$6,200 to upgrade and install at the Fire Station and \$9,000 for the Highway Garage. The garage would need a new panel. All of the Town buildings need electrical work and upgrades, the Senior Center costs would be in the \$10,000 area and the total upgrades to all buildings would cost between \$50,000-60,000. There was continued discussion and the Fire Station was the most important as the fire trucks have water stored in them and freezing would be a hazard. A priority list of electrical needs should be developed so this can be achieved.

Chapter 90 paperwork for a project from a few years ago was submitted to the State and approved, approximately \$18,000 will be recovered.

Dave said he has been speaking with Tom Scanlon regarding the Stabilization Fund and the \$120,000 that Town Meeting approved and was not put into the fund to date. There was discussion on the frustrations in dealing with the treasurer and the need for monthly and quarterly updates on the financial health of the town.

Jack asked the board what he has to do to be able to sell new trailers from his property; he was referred to the ZBA.

Joe Kearns advised the Board that the Lt. Gov. and Sean Cronin will be in the area to make a presentation to the Collaborative for an IT grant. He also said that the Economic Development person, Jeanne LeClair has been very active and is enthusiastic.

Dave said the Town needs as task force to sort through the high speed internet issues and bring them to the Selectboard as the Board does not have any expertise in this issue.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard