

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:10pm

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

Adams Bank Senior VP of Government Banking, Sue Kelley, met with the Board. She had previously been employed by Unibank but was hired by Adams to develop their government banking operations. In the first year of her employment with Adams Bank she has 44 towns enrolled in various accounts. She outlined various options for town banking and suggested a consolidated trust fund. This fund allows towns to put their accounts into on trust while keeping the individual accounts separate, this pays a higher interest rate. There are also no penalties when the town has to withdraw monies from this account. If the State funds are deposited to this account it will generate an email that is sent to the Treasurer the next business day. There was continued discussion on interest rates, CD's and individual trusts such as the ones the Cemetery has. Sue would not recommend the town putting money into CD's as the interest rates can change during the life of the CD and the town would not be able to get the higher rate without being charged a penalty for the early withdrawal. The town funds are insured up to \$250,000 by the FDIC and Adams Bank insures balances over the \$250,000 with DIF. The Board found this meeting enlightening and thanked Sue for her attendance and information.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,065.31; Expenses: \$8,864.56.

Minutes not approved as Al was absent from today's meeting and Judy did not attend the 5/7/18 meeting.

Mail: letters of support for Middlefield's MassWorks Grant application were received from the Huntington and Chester Selectboards.

Howard Knickerbocker volunteered to digitalize various town records but he stated he does not have the authority to do so. He had previously completed what cemetery records were available. A lot of the records and history of the town were lost when Marge Batorski and Jack Cobb died as they kept them in their memories. There was discussion as to how Howard could do this legally, if it could be authorized by the board or Town Clerk, if some type of appointment would have to be made, etc. TA will check with Town Counsel for status of appointment.

TA advised Board that Patricia Baker had made request regarding a \$5,000 payment made to the Assessors. No payment for legal costs were made to the assessors and TA will advise of same.

Bids for diesel fuel for the Highway Dept. and propane bids for the Senior Center, Highway Garage and Fire Station will be sent to potential bidders as well as be posted in the Country Journal.

Board okayed closing the Town Hall on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for the long Memorial Day Weekend. TA will advise staff.

There are 3 properties that the town now owns through a Tax taking. They are large tracts of land and are located on Ryan Road, Town Hill Road and Chipman Road. The Treasurer is normally the Tax Title custodian and would handle the auctioning of these properties but in prior conversations with Board members she had said she didn't have the time. The Board inquired if the Tax Collector would be willing to do this as she holds the same position in Chester. Tax Collector had advised the TA she would be willing. Dave motioned to appoint, Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease appointed Tax Title custodian.

Brief discussion on the marijuana issue, but will be discussed more in depth later in the meeting.

TA advised the retired 2003 Tahoe Police Cruiser was auctioned off for \$2,200. After fees, the Town netted \$1,830.

The Purple Heart Truck Run will be in Middlefield on June 23<sup>rd</sup>; it should be arriving around 11am. They will stop at Bell Cemetery to honor Elijah Churchill, 1st recipient of the Badge of Military Merit (now known as the Purple Heart). Discussion on various topics surrounding welcoming, providing refreshments, possible participation of the Dragoons, Churchill's Revolutionary War army unit. More will be confirmed as the date draws closer.

New Business: Dave discussed the request of ZBA member, Mary Courtney to speak with Town Counsel. This is in regard to the marijuana issues before the Planning Board. Dave motioned to allow, Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Dave has reviewed the 50 page appraisal of the late Jack Cobb's property and found it very complete. The value of the property to be taken by Eminent Domain was \$4,500. Dave has spoken with Jack's niece and she is in agreement on the value. Dave motioned to proceed with the taking, Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0. TA will forward documents to Town Counsel for review.

In discussion with Jack's niece, Dave learned there was never any offer of gifting the land to the town and that the niece had been in contact with the appraiser.

Last issue discussed was marijuana. Jason Costa is attempting to cultivate an outdoor marijuana grow, this would be a small plot and subject to the Cannabis Control Commission's rules for growing, security, etc. He provided the Board with a draft Host Agreement for review. He is scheduling a Community Outreach meeting in June. He

would provide tax revenue to the town as well as additional revenue for community projects. There would also be local employment hired for the build out. The revenues from the project would be subject to audit and he would provide the town with a copy or the town could hire an auditor of its own to review the finances. The state Cannabis Control Commission has very strict rules for growers to follow and this includes from seed to sale regulations.

There was continued discussion and Planning Board Chair, Doreen Black, said that the town could enter into a Host Agreement even with the moratorium in effect. Judy acknowledged the town voted 61-39 in favor of legalizing marijuana but the moratorium shows they want to take a closer look at it. Dave did not see an economic boost for the town and has a fear of legal repercussions if others want to come into town and do the same. Jason said that one size does not fit all and this would do something positive for all.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag