

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$6,897.82; Expenses: \$8,791.48

Highway Superintendent; Skip Savery, advised the Board he had ordered special sign posts for the Purple Heart signs. Also, he and Matt will be going to the dealers to inspect the new truck and make sure the controls are outfitted correctly.

Ann Marie Visconti, EMD, told the board the FEMA mitigation meeting will be held this Friday. The plan is almost complete and this meeting will finalize it so it can be submitted to MEMA and FEMA.

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

Board signed the Special Town Meeting warrant and given to the Town Clerk for posting.

TA to contact Independent Roofing to set up time for power washing the Town Hall roof.

Order of Taking for the Cobb property was signed by board, this was provided by Town Counsel.

Order of Layout for a portion of Chester Road at Smart Brook was also signed, this too was provided by Town Counsel.

Board next discussed the Adult Use draft marijuana by-law submitted by the Planning Board. (PB) PB members Doreen Black, Chair and Dale Hoag were present along with ZBA member, Mary Courtney. The Board was pleased with the hard work done by the PB in drafting this by-law. The Selectboard can make recommendations on changes to the PB who will then review the recommendations and see if they will accept them. If the changes are made it will then be presented back to the Selectboard. The PB will hold a public hearing on the draft by-law

when it is finalized. The final by-law will be then presented to the townspeople at a Special Town Meeting where a 2/3rds vote will be required to pass it.

There was extensive discussion on this by-law. Some of the material was gleaned from a draft gives by PVPC and then fitted to Middlefield. Town Counsel has been involved in the entire progression of the by-law. Judy said Town Counsel suggested the need for the by-law as the agricultural by-law may be argued that it was sufficient to cover marijuana growing. This by-law clarifies the expectations the town has, offers guidelines and not restrictions on any potential grower.

Judy suggested the number of retail establishments reduce from 3 to 1 as the business district in town is a small area and this would more fairly represent the town. Also, she would like the by-law amended to avoid having retail outlets in any areas frequented by minors, such as the playground area next to the Senior Center. Dave agreed fully, 100%.

There is no limit on the number of growers that could produce marijuana in the by-law but any host agreement presented could be tweaked by the Selectboard.

Dave questioned if the host agreement was different that the by-law and is it challengeable. Mary Courtney said the by-law addresses land use, the host agreement must comply with the by-law and the board can tweak the host agreement and address the terms of the agreement.

The PB will review the suggestions made by the Selectboard at their next meeting. All copies of the by-law will be watermarked as draft so as to avoid any confusion. The board thanked the PB for all of their diligent work.

Under new business, Dave said he had spoken with Erica Johnson of PVPC regarding the failure to fund the demolition of the store and adjacent house. She had no explanation and felt she had done a good job in making our case. There was no explanation why it was denied. PVPC does have some funds available that could be used for demo of the store. Dave said he would write a letter requesting an explanation of the denial.

Steve Harris, Communication Committee, has requested a number of items from the IT Grant that PVPC secured for the 6 hilltowns. These include a laptop and printed for the PB and cell phone boosters for the town buildings.

TA to run ad for a new accountant for 2 weeks in the Country Journal. PVPC has a firm that could do our accounting either on a temporary or permanent basis. Joe Kearns also noted the HCOG also has an accounting program.

Judy questioned if the lighting at the Senior Center could be altered as part of the Green Grant that was awarded. TA advised he would check with PVPC and DOER.

She also said that Windsor got additional grant monies for the high speed internet through a grant Westfield Gas & Electric submitted to a Federal Agency. She will check with a Windsor Selectboard member.

Joe Kearns stated he took Broadband Committee members Jay Swift and Maureen Sullivan to a WiredWest meeting so they could see how they work.

Minutes of July 29th were reviewed as the minutes stated the grant for the demolition of store and house were approved, this was later found to be denied. At the time the minutes were correct and board accepted on motion by Judy, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

