

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$14,529.06; Expenses: \$122,800.60

Minutes of Nov. 19th and 26th approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 3-0

Special Town Meeting (STM) warrant not discussed as wording from Town Counsel not received.

Letter being sent to residents regarding STM revised to include MLP fees. TA will copy and send to all registered voters.

Informational meeting held Nov. 28th regarding the high speed internet was discussed; meeting was attended by Bill Ennen and Peter Larkin of MBI. Board felt the meeting went well and a number of good questions were asked and answered. Attorney Bill Hewig of KP Law acted as the moderator and kept the meeting moving. Meeting lasted almost 3 hours and was attended by over 60 residents.

New business: Judy would like to have Whip City Fiber (Westfield Gas & Electric) and Comcast come to address questions the residents may have. TA will contact both and set up meetings as soon as possible.

Howard Knickerbocker said he had gathered information and put it into a report. His findings show a town owned system has too many costs and not enough customers and would blow up. The numbers speak for themselves.

Sherri Venditti wanted to know why 1.3 millions dollars was being requested when the cost estimate given by WG&E would only require slightly less than 1 million dollars net after the MBI contribution. It was explained that only the actual cost would be borrowed but it was necessary to have the cushion to protect against any unforeseen expenses.

Sherri also asked the status of the funding for tearing down the General Store; these were additional funds that PVPC has said would be available after our grant was denied. Judy said she would follow with Erica Johnson at PVPC.

Dave said he would like to see the same format used at the STM that was used for the informational meeting. That would be limiting each to 1 question and any further questions could be asked after everyone had their 1 question answered.

Sherri suggested secret ballots and there was some discussion as to how that would take place.

Howard suggested the informational meeting recording be placed on the web site.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola; Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard