

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2019  
MINUTES

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$8,945.32; Expenses: \$13,029.15

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Al 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 with Dave abstaining as he was not at last meeting.

Mail: Town received State Park pass from Dept. of Environmental Protection. Letter received from Kim and Patricia Baker's Attorney, this will be discussed in Executive Session. TA will send copy to Town Counsel and follow for proper procedures. There was a brief discussion as to who should attend, TA will also check with counsel as to attendees.

Judy discussed the CodeRed usage, at signup users had a choice for emergencies only or any notices. Most had signed up for emergencies only, when CodeRed was used to warn people to wear gloves when participating in the roadside clean up there were some who were upset that they got a phone call and did not consider this an emergency. Will see if this can be sorted so message only goes to those that signed up for all messages.

During the Special Town Meeting held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, Bill Ennen gave an incorrect answer to Sherri Venditti and he sent an email to the Selectboard acknowledging that. He also address his error with Sherri, copy of Ennen's email is attached to the minutes.

Dave said he had spoken with Peter Larkin and the MBI/Comcast agreement is in the works. Dave also said that representatives from Worthington and Montgomery would be willing to help Middlefield as the Comcast agreement progresses. Both those towns are using Comcast and are ahead of us in the make ready stages. Judy said once we get the make ready from Comcast we can negotiate for 100% coverage for the town.

Highway superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board the 10 wheel International truck was towed to the International dealer yesterday for repairs. Parts are approximately \$2,600 and labor \$1,000. After all the problems he has had with this truck, he will think hard before purchasing another International. He has install the Purple Heart signs at the Peru line and in Bancroft, he will have to wait for the ground to thaw before installing the remaining signs. Also, he has been grading the gravel roads and has done some 2 or 3 times already.

Dave said he contacted the Country Journal writer for some corrections that were necessary to the news report of the Special Town Meeting.

Erica Johnson of PVPC will be attending the next meeting to go over the CDBG grant application.

Al questioned who should be at the Executive Session and felt it should only be the Selectboard as they are the official leaders of the Town.

Sherri Venditti requested a copy of the Baker's attorney's letter and was told it will be not released at this time.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Al 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:36pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without corrections by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard

Hi Duane:

I'm requesting that you share the following message with the select board at their next scheduled meeting.

At the 12-20-18 special town meeting I took various questions from the audience. At one point Sherri Vendittii referenced that Charlemont had negotiated coverage with Comcast prior to the town's vote (12-6-18). I contradicted Sherri from the front of the room. I was wrong and have apologized to Sherri, but I think it is important for the quality of our dialogue that I set the record straight more broadly. I would like the select board to know that I was wrong, that I wished I had paid closer attention to Sherri's question and that I very much regret the tone and tenor of my response to Sherri.

As the select board transitions to Comcast, Peter Larkin will be on point for the Commonwealth. Peter has the direct experience of assisting communities who have elected to work with Comcast and in this regard the town will be well-served. Peter has had direct experience in facilitating the discussions which I'm certain will serve Middlefield well in the coming months.

I appreciated the opportunity to have supported the select board on 12-20 and wish all the best to Middlefield in the upcoming efforts to achieve true broadband access.

Sincerely, Bill

Bill Ennen

Last Mile Liaison

Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development

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