

Selectboard Meeting
February 6, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

Present: Noreen Suriner, Chair; Alan Vint, Clerk; Mitch Feldmesser
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Expense warrant of \$132,137.37 and payroll warrant of \$8,708.27 were approved and signed.

Minutes were approved with minor change.

Albert Leu was present, he is to be Gerry Garner's assistant. He will cover the building inspections when Gerry is not available, he will bill through Gerry. After a short discussion regarding qualifications, Noreen motioned to appoint as an Alternate Inspector. Mitch 2nd, vote was 3-0 in favor.

Jack Bayliss, Town Hall custodian, came in and explained his duties. He usually comes in late at night to do the work. Mops floors weekly, sweeps, does some painting and will do windows when the weather warms. Board advised to let them know if there is anything he needs to do his job.

Leanne Every, Wired West delegate for Middlefield, came in with maps she had received from Mass Broadband. She needs to know how far the Verizon DSL extends in Town. She will have to plot it on the maps that were provided. Noreen agreed to tackle the task of plotting the service area.

Eric Weiss, HCOG, Energy Director, was here to provide an update on the Green Grant the Town received. Under Chapter 25A, energy service contracts do not have to go to the low bidder. He is in the process of finalizing the Request for Proposals for the solar installation and gave a draft to the Board to review. Alan motioned to accept the draft, Noreen 2nd, vote was 3-0.

There is a March 2013 deadline to spend the funding but it is not a hard deadline as long as the projects are in progress. Also, Eric is going to review the remaining items in the project and group them into one contract to make it more attractive to bidders.

He also addressed the Big Belly solar compactor and will look into a suitable location. Most are installed in parks, but Middlefield does not have a central location.

Eric then spoke on behalf of HRMC; he has put out a regional trash hauling and disposal bid for the 10 towns HRMC represents. Each town will sign a separate contract. He feels the price could be 20% higher than the current costs as the Northampton landfill will be

closing. He is attempting to clear up a recent ruling that stated the prevailing wage has to be paid by the haulers to their drivers. The wage being used is based on the Boston rate and he feels it should be adjusted for the Western part of the state.

Noreen asked Eric for a long range plan for the transfer station. Eric said anything that is done will be a help and he will work with Joe Kearns and come up with a plan.

Discussion regarding kitchen inspections by **Jackie Duda**, Health Agent was next. She had sent an email to the Board regarding an inspection at the church. It was not clear if she could do the inspection without it looking like she was offering a free service that the Town was paying for. She later explained in an email, this is what an Agent generally does when a request is made as the public will be served the food. During the course of the inspection, she will explain what has to be done and how to do it.

Also, she has scheduled the Crepeau hearing for March 12th.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, gave his weekly update to the Board. He patched some holes on Chester Road and repaired a leak in a fuel tank on one of the trucks. He also had an issue with Andy, he got a stone caught between the tires of his truck and drove back to the garage rather than attempting to remove it himself or calling for help over the radio. Skip's biggest concern was that the tires were new and could have been damaged.

He also stopped at the Forbes Library in Northampton and reviewed some old maps but could not define the Town line between Chester and Middlefield on Chester Road. There was a general discussion about the location of the line and using GIS information but nothing was resolved.

Skip will speak with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission regarding what grant funds may be available for road reconstruction/repairs. He also questioned a "scrap" account he had a few years ago and found it had been closed and wondered what could be done to revive it. Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, was in attendance and said the account will have to be re-opened and should be carried over from year-to-year. It could be set up as a revolving account.

During the Open Forum the maintenance of Middlefield Road, Chester was brought up. Alan has received numerous complaints from residents about the lack of snow removal and slipperiness of the hill. A letter will be sent to the Chester Selectboard voicing those concerns.

Also, after an incident involving the kitchen stove, a check list for closing up the kitchen will be developed and posted in the kitchen. It is most important that the gas line behind the stove is turned off before leaving the building.

Last item discussed was the recent notification that came from the State regarding remote participation at meetings. Copy is attached to the minutes. Alan motioned to accept the

conditions of remote participation according to the attached, Noreen 2nd, vote was 3-0 in favor.

At 9:15pm, Alan motioned to adjourn, Mitch 2nd, vote was 3-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.