

Selectboard Meeting
March 5, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:02

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

Warrants were reviewed and approved. Payroll: \$8,383.47; Expense:
\$21,192.29

Minutes of the Friday, February 24, 2012 and Monday, February 27, 2012
were approved.

Bob Jackman was interviewed by the Board for the vacant position of Animal Control Office (ACO). He is currently the ACO for Chester, Huntington and Easthampton, he has been acting as an ACO for about 17 years and it is his only job. Jackman is certified as an ACO and presented the Board with copies of his many certifications. He has accumulated much equipment over the years, including a microchip scanner, and would not need to purchase any equipment to handle the Middlefield position.

Noreen mentioned 2 recent incidents, one where a complaint of barking dogs at a neighbor's house and the other was a dog bite that was reported by Noble Hospital. Jackman advised the dog bite incident would be handled by the Animal Inspector as that person handles the quarantining of animals. He would handle the barking complaint and seek to resolve it. He does not have kennels on his property and the Town would have to find a place for any strays to be housed. The dog owner would be responsible for the kennel charges and if the dog went unclaimed for 10 days, it would be declared abandoned and would belong to the Town. The dog could then be either put up for adoption or brought to a shelter.

Mitch questioned him if dogs had to be on a leash or under control of the owner. Jackman said it depends on how the Town By-Law is stated. Mitch also asked how he would be paid. Jackman said he prefers a set amount but if it were to be any hourly rate he would charge \$20/hr with a 3 hour minimum. The Town could issue citations and set fees and fines when he is involved in picking up an animal.

Alan said he would need to deal with incidents as they occur and be responsive to the Town's needs.

Jackman also informed the Board he has a web site with various form that residents can fill out on line.

Sherri Venditti questioned Jackman about 2 dogs that were recently found in Chester and what his role in that was. He advised he was contacted by the Otterbacks who found the dogs and they were brought to Terri Andrews who owns Cedar Hill Kennel. She was kind enough to groom the dogs. Jackman stated his role would be to handle the investigation and if no owners came forward, place them up for adoption or into a shelter.

The Board thanked him for his time and Jackman left.

In the Open Forum, **Marie Pease** questioned the Board regarding the many Executive Sessions that have been held regarding Harry Pease Road since no law suit has been filed. **Mitch** explained that there have been serious threats of a suit.

Alan said when this issue was brought up a number of years ago, it was never concluded and the Board is trying to sort out a very complex situation. If the strategy, in an attempt to resolve the issue, was discussed in open session the Town's position would be compromised. Town Counsel has been advising the Board on the Executive Sessions.

Tim Pease advised the Board that when Jerry Romano sold the property he deeded a right-of-way but it was only on ½ of the "old road". **Marie** added she always felt this was a private issued and should not involve the Town.

Tim said he bulldozed a road up through his property in the 80's so Bannish Lumber could have their logging trucks haul out the logs. When he bulldozed, he took the path of easiest going to bring the "road" to the logs.

Wally Smith wanted to know if the road is going to put in and land taken from people that have been paying taxes on it for years, was their money going to be returned.

Marie said when her son built his house, he did everything right and it appears he is being punished by the Jamula's as they insist on using his driveway for their right-of-way.

Mitch said the Health Agent and Building Commissioner are going to inspect the property when the weather is better and report back to the Board.

Noreen said the Board is trying to represent the Townspeople fairly in this matter.

Alan motioned to close the Open Meeting, go into Executive Session to deal with the Harry Pease Road situation and not reconvene in Open Session. Noreen 2nd. Vote was Noreen, aye; Alan, aye; Mitch, aye.

Open Meeting was closed and Board moved into Executive Session at 8:20pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes
Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser