

Selectboard Minutes
July 23, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:07pm

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

Warrants were approved and signed. 3 expense warrants: \$44,049.84; \$11,122.86 & \$55,798.40. Payroll: \$7,376.71.

One mowing bid was received, bid opened. Charles Winn, Jr. submitted bid of \$260 per mowing. Alan motioned to award bid to Mr. Winn, Noreen 2nd; vote 2-0 to award.

Mitch Feldmesser, Selectman, arrived at 7:16pm.

Minutes were approved with changes on motion by Alan, Noreen 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail was reviewed.

The Board will meet at 4pm on 8/13 at request of Eric Weiss regarding the solar bids for the Town Hall.

Masato Fry appeared before the Board regarding a complaint received about his hauling of recyclable materials without permits or license. He stated what had started as a hobby has turned into a business that he operates on rented land on Chipman Road.

Alan was concerned as he was hauling waste oil and it may be a hazmat consideration.

Fry explained that particular load was hauled as a favor to another family in 5 gallon cans . He believes the hazmat is based on volume but he wants to do everything properly and asked for a license application. He completed the application and will return to the Board at the next meeting, 8/6.

Todd Ford, Executive Director of Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) addressed the Board and gave an overview of what the HCOG is doing to aid its members. Eric Weiss has been appointed the Sustainability Director and has sent out Solar Requests for Proposals. He hopes to obtain local bidders and will fully vet all bidders. Todd stated that will alleviate some of the burden of the members when they look for solar power installations as it is sometimes difficult for small towns to attract bidders and for the State to approve the process.

Also, the Hampshire Power electricity cooperative now has 28 towns and many more are looking at the possibility of joining and is adding more "green energy" to its power source.

Diana Schindler, Municipal Services Director of HCOG, advised the purchasing agreements are being revamped and will be extended to non-profits. She would like feedback on what members would like to see added and there is currently a list of services on the HCOG's website. They are trying to keep local and buy local when it comes to selecting bidders.

The regional accounting aspect has a contract with one town and is submitting a proposal to another. The IT is working with a contractor but may be cost prohibitive to small towns at \$5,000 and it may be worthwhile to see if town's can share the costs.

She has written a STRAP Grant for Hatfield and would be willing to do the same for Middlefield. Her charge for writing the grant is usually based on an hourly rate. She would ask the town to identify the project and provide her with the information and she would write the application. She can also coordinate the planning for towns. A list of grants will be posted on the HCOG website.

Todd added he is now a member of the Hampshire County Tourism Board and will make sure smaller communities are represented.

Adair Laurel-Cafarella met next with the Board regarding his request for access to the right-of-way to a parcel of land behind the transfer station. This land is owned by the Society of the Elder Faith and he is their agent. He would like a key to the gate so he may access the parcel.

Mitch noted he has 200' of frontage on the adjacent property and he didn't need to use the right-of-way. Also, the Board would need written proof that he is its agent.

Adair said he had given this information to a previous board but would obtain it again.

Noreen questioned if the right-of-way transferred when the property was donated and also, there is a need to protect the transfer station equipment.

Mitch didn't see the point; just because he has a right-of-way doesn't mean he has to use it.

Alan worried about adverse possession and will check with Town Counsel regarding the right-of-way issue.

Sherri Venditti spoke and said when the property was subdivided the map drawn did not show the right-of-way.

Adair said the surveyor only did his own property and the right-of-way is through town property.

During open forum Police Chief Tom Austin was questioned about complaints of speeding through the center of town during 'Rush Hour'. He does not have the manpower or budget but will have one of his officers stationed on her off day and will also request the State Police increase patrols at that time. Tom provides radar patrols during the afternoons when he returns from work. He usually gives verbal warnings for 1st time offenders and logs their names in the radar book.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board the water tank has been removed from the boiler room. It took about a half day to remove and then they spent the rest of the day cleaning up at the transfer station. He said the town needs to obtain a 2nd box so metal and debris can be put in each box and not have items placed on the ground. He has about ¾ of the roadsides mowed and will grade some of the gravel roads as soon as there is some rain. His new employee, Matt Radwich, will be starting Monday.

There was a brief discussion on the upcoming Board of Health meeting regarding the Hudson's garage on a non-conforming lot.

There was also discussion regarding the 166 & 168 Skyline Trail properties. Noreen was concerned about the Town's liability on this and any other town owned property. Alan believes the Town would not be held liable for any further damages once it divested itself of the property. And that if it was transferred to a non-profit, they would have no liability either. Noreen is concerned with the costs of installing a well and septic system if the Town retains the property at 166. A Master Plan should be developed for the best use of these properties. Alan also said the best use of 168 may be as a parking lot.

Mitch then addressed the Open Forum portion of the Board's meetings: he feels the questions asked should be resolvable in a few minute's discussion and if it is not, the Board could vote to place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Alan felt this was when the townspeople could come and express themselves about legitimate issues but the Board did not deserve abuse.

The following appointments were made on motions by Noreen, 2nds by Alan and 3-0 votes:

Ed Vivier, EMS director; Deputy Fire Chief, Larry Pease; COA, Susan Donnelly-Baker; Tax Collector, Mary Ann Pease; Treasurer, Jane Thielen; Town Counsel, Kopelman & Paige; Accountant, Beverly Cooper; Administrative Assistant, Duane Pease; Transfer Station Attendant, Kathy O'Brien; Recycling, Joe Kearns; Smoke Alarm Inspectors, Ron Radwich and Larry Pease.

Also, Sarah Foley submitted a letter of interest for the vacant position of School Committee member for the Gateway Regional School District. This position would serve until the next Annual Town Election. Noreen motioned to appoint, Alan 2nd; vote was 3-0 to appoint.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Noreen 2nd; vote was 3-0 to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, clerk

Mitch Feldmesser