

Selectboard Minutes
March 4, 2013

Meeting opened at 7:05 by Chair

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

Warrants were reviewed and signed. Expenses: \$25,408.30; Payroll: \$7,265.07

Minutes were reviewed and approved with minor change on 3-0 vote.

Mail was reviewed.

The Emergency Management Team meeting did not go forward as not all members were aware and/or not notified.

Discussion on Board of Health and responsibilities of notification of Title V inspections on sales of property in Town. It was decided the Board would ask the Assessor Clerk to advise them on all sales of property in Town.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, advised the Board he had spent about 67% of his snow budget so far this winter. Also, he hasn't received any information from MEMA regarding the earlier severe snow storm that resulted in the Governor declaring a state-wide State of Emergency.

Resident **Dave Dinicola** questioned the status of the Big Belly trash compactors that are currently at the Transfer Station and not being used. Discussion followed and he was advised the Gateway Regional School had been contacted about using them at the Chester Elementary School. It was not practical for their use at the Transfer Station and there were no other places they could be put to good use in Town. It appears there was a breakdown in communications and that has recently been corrected and Eric Weiss who is coordinating the Green Grant has been back in contact with the school.

Maryann Walsh requested use of the Town Hall for a summer program she is sponsoring called "Learning on the Hill". The program involves children from ages 5 to 15 and runs in two 2 week sessions. The daily sessions are from 8:30am-noon and 1pm to 4:30pm. The cost of each session is between \$120 and \$140. This program will be open to children from throughout the area and she will advertise it. This includes her hiring instructors to teach the children science, engineering, math, etc. There will be 6 sessions with up to 12 students in each session in the morning and afternoon. Each class will have one instructor and one aide. There will not be any children left alone during the program. Maryann has run this program previously at Westfield State University. She will be responsible for maintaining insurance to protect the Town. When questioned, she said she would like to use the auditorium, hall, kitchen, library and outside play area.

There was additional discussion on what fee to charge and it will be determined at a later date as there is potential for a profit depending on the number of children that sign up for the program. Eleanor Doyle, a library trustee, advised the Board the library is going to sponsor some local children for the program. The Board advised Maryann she has their full support in this endeavor.

Mitch questioned the status of the Interconnection Agreement with Western Mass Electric regarding bring the solar array on line. There is to be a meeting on Tuesday for an electrical inspection.

Alan relayed a conversation he had with Ron Berenson, Town's Tax Taking Attorney, regarding various properties in Tax Title. There are properties of low value that can be secured for the Town by the Treasurer that are just sitting there with no activity, Ron said he could have a paralegal process them but it would cost the Town About \$150 each. The McGrath property is still pending, Ron has payment plans with some and one person stopped paying and left Town. Alan also spoke with the Tax Collector, Mary Ann Pease, and she advised him she is willing to let the Treasurer use her \$1,500 Tax Title expense budget so she can further pursue the delinquent accounts with the attorney.

Finally, there was discussion about the Annual Town Report and what photos, dedications, etc are to be included as well as a meeting with the Finance Committee (FC) to go over budget items. FC Chair, Joe Kearns, was in attendance and it was agreed to have a joint meeting on March 25th to review the proposed budgets.

Noreen motioned to adjourn, Alan 2nd, vote was 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser