

Selectboard Minutes
March 18, 2013

Meeting opened at 7:07pm.

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

Board member Mitch Feldmesser arrived at 7:12pm.

Judy Hoag was present to request the Board appoint a 2nd alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) as some of the issues the ZBA will be addressing will involve other members. The ZBA offered Jay Swift, and Michael Feldberg as possible candidates. Noreen suggested Jay Swift as he had been on the Planning Board prior and Alan suggested Michael Feldberg, Alan felt all three were qualified. After discussion including the possible appointment of a 3rd alternate a motion was made by Noreen to nominate Jay and 2nd by Alan vote was 2-0 with Mitch recusing as he is a member of the ZBA.

Warrants were reviewed and questioned as the expense warrant had 2 different sets of numbers but seemed to cover the expenses listed. Expense warrant was \$179,404.34; payroll: \$10,197.27. There was further discussion regarding a Selectboard expense that was not authorized by the Board for an expense that Noreen incurred to attend a conference. Alan felt this should not be approved this was not approved by the Board in a scheduled Board meeting and that Noreen went ahead and incurred the expense anyway. Mitch said he understood she should have requested the Board approval but the expense was warranted and should be covered. On a motion by Mitch to approve the expense, 2nd by Noreen, vote 2-1 with Alan objecting, the expense was approved. Warrants were signed. Alan stated he was going to file an Open Meeting complaint over the issue.

Bob Hoynoski and Matt Radwich, Police Officers, addressed the Board regarding Town Hall safety and security. There are workers in the Town Hall that have felt threatened by certain situations that have arisen. Most recently there was an issue with the Tax Collector dealing with an individual. The assessors have also had issues in the past as well. There was discussion regarding various ways to protect individual ranging from security cameras at the front door with a monitor in each office, keeping doors locked as well as having an officer in attendance during the business hours. The librarian and Town Clerk were also concerned as there are many times when they are the only ones in the building and their offices are at the far end of the hall and can not tell who is coming into the building.

Maryann Walsh, librarian, said the Town needs to have a protocol in place for protection of the workers and the Board should sit down and write out an emergency protocol.

Bob has sat down and discussed this with Ton Austin, Police Chief, and they are working on a few ideas.

In Open Forum, Noreen advised the Board the Town has received a grant that will pay for the Veteran's Agent for one year.

Also, the Animal Inspector's term will be up shortly and Noreen nominated Heather Baylis for the position. Alan 2nd and vote was 3-0 in favor of Heather.

The next issue was an email from a former resident who was refused at the transfer station when she attempted to dispose of garbage. The resident said she still owns property in Town and has a valid sticker so she should be able to use the transfer station. The Town has no By-Law regarding the expiration of stickers if the individual no longer resides in town, nor is there any mechanism to provide a rebate. There was discussion about when the sticker was no longer valid and that a policy should be written so this will not happen in the future. It was decided to inform the attendant that this person will be able to use the transfer station until her sticker expires. Also, the attendant should be involved in writing the policy.

Also discussed was sending a letter to the Planning Board regarding what roads are discontinued, no longer used and should be discontinued, etc.

The Town Clerk requested the East River Road, River Road, E. River Road name be clarified. The road is called East River Road in Chester and River Road in Worthington but has 3 different names in Middlefield.

Sherri Venditti said there is a historical procedure to check on roads and their names.

Alan said he had met with the Paradise Energy, Western Mass Elect and John Savery regarding the solar installation and John was not happy with the current set up for the connection. It appears the current situation may not be adaptable if the service to the Town Hall is changed in the future. The Board will request John Savery and Eric Main, electrical inspector, meet with the Board and explain the situation.

Noreen motioned to adjourn the Board meeting, Alan 2nd, vote was 3-0 and meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser

