

Selectboard Minutes  
June 24, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk  
Duane Pease Administrative Assistant (AA)

Warrants reviewed and signed; Expense: \$16,671.84; Payroll: \$14,967.69; Kopelman & Paige \$9,443.90.

Ron Radwich, Fire Chief, appeared and asked to be re-appointed Fire Chief and Fire Warden. Motion by Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard; vote 2-0 Ron was reappointed.

Minutes from 06/10/13 and 06/17/13 were approved 2-0.

Appointments were made on motion by Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard and all votes 2-0. See attached sheet for appointments. There was one question on appointment of Carl Lafreniere to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic, AA will confirm if he still wants to continue as Town representative. One additional member is need for the Conservation Commission, CDC representative and alternate for Westfield River. AA will request Country Journal run under Middlefield news.

Discussion regarding Council on Aging: does not seem to be much control and they spend quite a bit of money for heat and electric in maintaining the building. It is a 5 member Council and it is believed there are only 2 current members. Susan Baker-Donnelly has been running it and Board will request she attend future meeting to discuss direction and policy of Council.

Steve Harris, Communication Committee, gave update on computed back up storage: Kurt Zinnack gave quote of \$325 (5hrs @ \$65/hr) for researching systems, etc. Board felt this was reasonable and motion by Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard, vote 2-0 to obtain a more formal proposal from Kurt.

Jack Baylis was interviewed for the Town Hall custodian yearly appointment. He felt the job was going okay, getting everything done. Howard questioned him on a recent floor mopping that left dirty water marks on the entire floor. Jack said the mop was dirty and he came back the next night to redo the floors.

Next interview was with Kathy O'Brien for the custodian appointment. Kathy had substituted for Jack during the winter when he was injured. Kathy has 14 years experience doing cleaning at 2 local summer camps. Alan noted when Kathy substituted for Jack, he received compliments on the cleaning, especially the bathrooms. Motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kathy was appointed custodian. AA will notify jack of the Boards decision and also thank him for his past service to the Town.

Handyman Position was next on the agenda; AA contacted the 2 prior applicants and advised them to appear if they were still interested. Neither came to the meeting. Kathy O'Brien also applied for this position and was interviewed. She stated she has her own tools, does a lot of various repairs at her own home as well as at the Transfer Station. On a motion by Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard, Kathy was appointed Handyman. Hourly rate will be \$10 and she will have a 90 day probationary period.

In Open Forum, Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, advised the Board he was doing some of the end of the year transfers from the reserve fund as the Highway fuel account was over budget and the Police Dept had additional unexpected cruiser repairs.

Eleanor Doyle did not get the Building Commissioner's rejection of the Library's request for a sign. Also, she questioned his requirement that when the Library exterior door is replaced, it has to be replaced with a Fire Door. This will add close to \$1,500 to the original cost. More research will be done to see if the Building Code requires an exterior door to be fire proof when it just serves one room and is not a general emergency exit for the building. Skip Savery said the LP Adams representative that met at the library to measure the door said he had never heard of this requirement,.

Judy Hoag also said it is difficult to see the Building Commissioner with his limited hours and there are times when he is out of the office during his scheduled office hours. Alan agreed there has been some frustration with his focus on Middlefield.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he had received a proposal for the well-testing at the garage from Tighe & Bond, the cost is \$5,300. the test well has not been tested since 2006 but Skip has been paying the yearly assessment. He had also contact Huntley Associates but they do not have a licensed site professional on their staff and would have to hire someone if they were chosen. Skip has been trying to contact Caprice Shaw of DEP regarding the well testing and to see how many tests will be required. The road crew has done some patching on Chester Road, will have to replace a culvert on Arthur Pease Road and will be trimming the roadsides.

Mitch Feldmesser arrived at the meeting at 7:40pm

Howard wanted to acknowledge Mitch's Draft Mission Statement for the Town Center. Mitch had handed it out at the last meeting.

Mitch was brought up to speed on the appointments that were made earlier in the meeting.

There was also discussion on the Open Forum being done at the start of the meeting. it was decided this would be limited to 2 people with a strict 5 minute time period. The AA will be the gatekeeper of this. There will also be another Open Forum later in the meeting.

AA advised the Board the “Tanglewood Runners” would be doing their yearly run and stopping in Middlefield for refreshments. The AA will open the Town Hall at 6:30am for them. Noreen Suriner and some other residents will be in charge of the event.

There was additional discussion on the Council on Aging regarding costs and usage. Mitch felt it was unfair to hold the only person active in the COA responsible. Judy Hoag and Joe Kearns advised they believed the COA grant money is turned over to the Town. Joe suggested they speak with the residents involved as well as COA’s in other small towns.

Alan Motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote was 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser