

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JULY 7, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$5,008.19 for Fiscal Year (FY) '14;
\$3,090.36 FY '15; Expenses: \$16,063.12

Minutes approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Renewal lease for Post Office also in mail, previously accepted, Alan
signed.

Bill Girard, Building Commissioner (BC) in Becket and his assistant, Gary Danko, met with Board to discuss possible appointment as new BC. Extended discussion regarding permits, code enforcement and ongoing issues in Town that have been pending for years. Board advised they need direction on many issues on how to proceed. Girard advised that permits are all done on line in Becket and he would set up Middlefield the same way. That way delays are eliminated and paper trail is evident for future use if necessary. He was advised the Town would purchase the necessary software to accomplish this. Girard would have electric and plumbing inspectors notified via email and they would be able to access the permitting process for their inspections, sign offs, etc. This program also includes the Tax Collector and Conservation Committee. The Assessor's would also be able to see what new building was being done in Town. The set up costs of this software will be determined but Girard did not think it would be more than \$400-500.

Danko requested a list of priorities from the Board and he would check them out and see if realistic results can be achieved. Also recommended was adoption of non-criminal citations and fines for various infractions. These can be appealed to the Court and are usually handled by a judge but once the word gets around that the Town is serious about infractions, people are usually more cooperative.

There was discussion regarding an hourly rate and eventually \$45 was agreed to.

Howard motioned to appoint, Alan 2nd; vote 3-0 to appoint Girard as BC and Danko as his assistant.

Sherri Venditti questioned them on anonymous phone calls, Girard said he does not respond to them but does respond to written complaints.

AA to contact current BC to advise he is not being reappointed to position.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he was continuing his reconstruction of Root Road and it should be paved by the end of the month.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, advised his home phone has been out of service if anyone was attempting to contact him, he hopes to have it repaired within a few days.

Wally Smith questioned why flowers had been planted around the former General Store. He was told the Town does not own the store and some individuals are attempting to make the center look better.

Assistant Town Clerk, Eleanor Doyle, told the Board she had only received 2 of the Open Meeting Law acknowledgements back.

Written answers received from Town Counsel on questions previously submitted are attached to minutes.

Howard felt the Board should start a list of potential changes/articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

Priorities were listed for the Handyman: repair Senior Center door, replace bad boards on the Playscape and repair the handicap railings at the auditorium exit. Also, advise Town Hall custodian, Kathy O'Brien, to have the rocks removed from the lawns.

Discussion regarding the Tax Taking of the property on River Road that is now owned by the Town and the owner is no longer able to redeem it. It was decided it would be sold by sealed bid and the bid opening would be on

August 18th. Alan will contact Ron Berenson, Town Tax Attorney, to draw up the legal documents for this sale.

Howard will be attending the next GTAC meeting on 7/19 in Huntington.

AA will request Electrical Inspector, Eric Main, attend next Board meeting to discuss his reappointment and changes being made in BC's office and on line approvals.

Board also discussed pay raises for the Highway Dept, this will be followed up at the next meeting.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2ndp; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola