

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$8,870.20; Expenses: \$34,077.19.

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

Steve Harris, Communication Committee (CC), reported to Board Middlefield has applied for no-cost wireless broadband for the town. It is an experiment in using wireless for the “last mile” and would benefit the users as there would be no fee.

Town Hall painting has started and Kathy O’Brien stated they are painting as fast as they can and doing it neatly.

Alan reported he has spoken with 2 of the Washington Selectmen, Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Downing’s aide regarding the Becket Road Bridge. The replacement will be done as quickly as possible and everyone is cooperating. Washington has been advised the Middlefield Highway Dept is willing to aid in the replacement.

Howard advised the Senior Center repairs are pretty much completed. He will have the Electrical Inspector inspect the bathroom prior to any work being done. He wants to make sure the electrical will be within code.

Alan said he spoke with Erica Johnson of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, regarding concerns with the late season cold temperatures and the exterior painting on the Senior Center. She advised there would be a one year warranty on the work. Alan also spoke with a representative of Sherwin-Williams and was told any flaws should show up within the first year.

MIIA had an inspection done on the properties for a re-evaluation and found the buildings to be underinsured. MIIA requires property to be insured at 100%. Alan motioned to accept the new valuations and agree to the increase in the insurance premium, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Howard reported on the Southern Hilltown COA Consortium. There are 5 towns in the group and the COA chairs of the towns act as the Board of Directors. Russell serves as the administrator. This consortium enables the COA’s to obtain grant funding for various activities such as contracting with outside agencies for outreach programs.

The original consortium was never set up correctly and Howard requested Kopelman & Paige (K&P) put together an agreement giving legal status to the consortium. K&P is doing the legal work at no costs to the towns. However, since K&P represents 3 of the towns they need a release signed by the board. On a motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 Alan signed the release.

Next discussed was the kitchen. It now been approved by the Health Agent. The painting will be done by the Middlefield Fair group. Howard also noted the State recently enacted a law making “pot luck” dinners legal.

Alan said there needs to be rules and regulations for use of the kitchen and the doors must be locked when the kitchen is not in use. Town Hall custodian, Kathy O’Brien, will be in charge of inventory and making sure the kitchen is cleaned properly after use. Dave said he will obtain a copy of the Dalton kitchen rules for the Board to review.

Howard reported the Southern Hilltown Adult Education Council (SHAEC) is going to assign 12 computers to be used for computer classes. Six will be set up in the auditorium; they will also be available for residents to use. SHAEC is also interested in using the kitchen for canning classes.

Alan reported the Town Handyman, Don Munger, has resigned for health reasons.

Steve Harris, Joe Kearns, and Howard (CC) are installing a new audio visual system in the auditorium. This includes an overhead projector, speakers, screen and wireless microphones. The projector has been tested and worked.

Dave will contact Al Sirard regarding an appointment as Assistant Electrical Inspector.

In Open forum, Town Clerk, Marge Batorski, advised the Veteran’s Agent has yet to be sworn in.

Dave questioned the legal account for K&P and how the Town was going to provide up to \$2,000 for legal fees regarding the Worthington withdrawal from the Gateway District. Alan explained the agreement that was reached has an \$8,000 cap for this year and the Town would not be billed for any legal use over that amount. The current budget is \$12,000 so there is an additional \$4,000 available.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board the Arthur Pease Road culvert has been replaced. Prior to his closing the road, he checked with every resident on the road and no one had any problem with the road being closed and having to use a detour. He had ordered salt for the winter, current price for untreated salt is \$68/ton and \$74/ton for treated salt.

Joe Kearns, Finance Committee Chair, advised a Special Town Meeting will have to be held at some point to increase the Vocational Education budget.

Alan motioned to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss the litigation regarding the Worthington Withdrawal from the Gateway District and not reconvene the open Selectboard Meeting. Howard 2nd the motion. Vote: Alan, Aye; Howard, Aye; David, Aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola