

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
JULY 1, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; Mitch Feldmesser  
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Expense warrant of \$6,090.40 was approved and signed.

Terry Andrews and Jan Hines came before the Board to discuss possible appointment as Animal Inspectors. After discussion of duties, state contact, Alan motioned to appoint both, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0.

General discussion among Board regarding Building Commissioner being on vacation and no one advised or not being posted on office door or web site.

Chuck Winn did not submit a mowing bid this year, and advised Board he would be willing to continue to mow through this season but not next spring. He may be moving south and did not want to commit to the full fiscal year. After discussion with Board it was agreed he would mow through the fall at the rate of \$300/mowing on a motion by Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard and 3-0 vote. Also, he will be considered part time summer help and his pay will be taxed by the Town. If there is a problem with that, the Board agreed to lease his equipment for \$1 and then hire him to operate it.

Howard presented the Board with his analysis of the Council on Aging (COA) and the costs associated with it. The energy costs of maintaining the building are extremely high during the winter months. The State does provide a \$3,500 grant to the COA that is partially turned over to the Town. There was further discussion and Joe Kearns agreed with the costs but felt the problem should be identified and then attempt to solve it. Marge Batorski felt the director should be at the meeting to defend and explain the costs. This will be further discussed at a future meeting. The other discussion on the COA regarded the number of members that are on the Council, it is believed there are currently only 2 members and the Town By-laws state there are to be 5 members. Marge Batorski volunteered to serve on the COA.

Also, all of the Town building expenses are paid for in one account so there is no ready breakdown of the cost of operating each building. The phone bill also includes all of the phones owned by the Town.

Sherri Venditti questioned if the Green Grant included the individual costs associated with each building and if one building had costs out of the ordinary why was it not a priority to address that building.

John Callahan of Palmer Paving requested the Board sign a petition to address the fact that the Hampshire Council of Government (HCOG) stop charging a 1% bidder fee on all

of the blacktop bids that are awarded. This cost is now included in each bid submitted and is paid for through the use of the Towns' Chapter 90 monies. He is meeting with the town's involved and asking that they sign the petition. Joe Kearns, Town's representative to HCOG explained this fee used to be billed to the Towns directly but to make accounting easier the HCOG started to add this bidder fee at the request of some of the members. There was discussion on shifting the cost back to the towns and if the 1% can be greater than the cost of service provided on higher job bids.

The Town Center master plan that had been started a few years ago is 90% completed but needs to be written up according to Alan. Discussion on what needs to be done, what funding may be available, what is the current structural status of the buildings that are being taken in Tax Title. Wally Smith felt the Building Commissioner and Health Agent should inspect the buildings and give a report on their findings. However, since the Town does not own the buildings at this time there are questions if they can be entered, Alan will follow with Town Counsel in this regard.

Howard advised the Board he had attended the Hampshire County Health meeting.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser