

Middlefield Select Board Meeting - Aug. 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, Alan Vint and Howard Knickerbocker present. Mitch Feldmesser and Administrative Asst. Duane Pease were absent.

The Aug. 5, 2013 minutes were reviewed. Alan moved to accept with no changes and Howard 2nd. Vote 2-0 in favor.

Expense Warrant in the amount of \$25,079.88 was signed.

Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$10,953 was signed.

Joe Kearns presented a contract from Lecrenski Bros. for the bussing the vocational students for FY 2014-16 in the amount of \$2,784.49 per month. Alan moved to accept and Howard 2nd. The contract was signed and then stamped by Marge.

6:35 PM – Mitch present.

A recommended minor modification to the Recall Petition was received from Representative Kulik and Senator Downing. Alan moved to accept the modification and Howard 2nd. Vote 2-0 with Mitch abstaining.

George Reichert, Regional Coordinator of the Southern Hill Town Council on Aging Consortium, provided the BOS with a copy of "A Guide for Board Members" which enumerates the role and requirements of Councils on Aging and their respective board members. Mr. Reichert went on to describe the explosion of the post 60 year old population. The Middlefield senior census showed a 62% increase from 2000 to 2010 (71 to 115). Susan Baker-Donnelly stated the present number (2012) was 127. Mr. Reichert said highly trained individuals to interact with and assess the situations of elderly citizens were urgently needed. When questioned by Howard he stated that no volunteers were presently available in his 6 town region to provide this "professional" oversight.

Susan Baker-Donnelly presented her written response to Howard's analysis of the COA dated July 1, 2013 and his tally of the generator expenditures dated June 30, 2013. A general discussion ensued with Alan asking Susan who she thought was responsible for the COA building. Susan stated that at one time she thought it was Skip but realized he was not. John Richardson asked if the Town had a Supervisor of Buildings and Alan answered no. Howard stated he was surprised at the low percentage of senior participation at the COA. Susan responded with a few recent numbers but an audited yearlong count of non-volunteer meals and trips would be helpful. Cathy Roth, a former COA board member, presented a revised list of 5 potential COA members. Alan requested that a resume and/or letter of interest be provided to the BOS by these individuals for evaluation. Mitch commented that the SB was in a state of extreme flux during the generator episode and that probably added confusion to this situation. Susan announced a workshop on Alzheimer's, Diabetes and chronic senior illnesses that will run for 6 weeks. They will start on Sept. 25th and are each Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

8:15 – Five minute break.

8:20 – The meeting resumed. Mitch wishes to solicit those interested in discussing and planning the Town Center after the store and adjacent house are taken for taxes. He feels that (1) Financing and Grants, (2) Design and Planning and (3) Construction Oversight - are potential areas of interest and study. Alan noted that the town tax attorney has obtained permission for us to inspect the buildings. Howard presented a Sept. 2007 petition signed by 40 residents asking that the Town avoid any involvement with these buildings. Mitch will draft an announcement seeking potential committee members for approval at the next SB meeting. Cathy Roth suggested that Senior Housing might be a method to obtain grant funding for the Center.

Jack Guyette has problems with lost mail and other delivery problems. Alan suggested contacting postal supervision at Becket as the SB has no say in this matter.

Howard stated that the Communications Committee has selected the "Back Blaze" file backup service to comply with our C.O.O.P. responsibilities. Steve has tested at home. The cost is \$50 per computer per year. Alan made motion to proceed and Howard 2nd. Vote was 3-0. Joe Kearns will recommend proper accounting and contracted length of service.

Joe Kearns will draft a letter to the legislature for our approval stating our objection to allowing Worthington to exit the Gateway School consortium. Joe will attend the hearing in Boston to represent Middlefield. The hearing is Sept. 19th at 10:00 AM in hearing room 1A.

Cynthia Lapa requested the name of our town counsel. The name was provided. She is restoring the Arthur Pease place and stated she wanted a second building inspector as she would not allow Gerald on her property. Alan stated we did not have a substitute and that Gerald had sent a conciliatory letter to Ms. Lapa. She stated she did not receive and Alan directed her to Duane for a copy.

The Board selected Sept. 3, 16 and 30 for future meetings.

Skip Savery brought us up to date with the ongoing road work. A marginal culvert will be replaced on Clark Wright. Skip has partial funds for the ground water testing at the garage and requested a transfer of funds to finish this work. Joe will facilitate. A portion of Root Rd. will be re-paved as it has deteriorated badly.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd, vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser