

Selectboard Minutes
December 30, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; Mitch Feldmesser (arrived at 6:04pm)
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$16,618.02; Expenses: \$47,910.27

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

Suzanne Lemieux was interviewed by Board for position of Recording Secretary (R/S) for various Town Boards/Committees/Commissions. Suzanne advised she is currently the R/S for the Town of Worthington and takes the minutes for the Selectboard, Planning Board and Finance Committee. She is flexible and feels she would be able to take the required minutes for Middlefield. There was discussion between Suzanne and the Board regarding scheduling of meetings and notice she would need to be able to attend. On a motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 in favor of hiring Suzanne to the position. There will be a 2 month trial period. Her hourly rate will be \$12 and will be funded from the Administrative Assistant Account.

Next item discussed was the Senior Center/COA by Howard. He provided an 8 page report (attached) regarding issues he perceived with the building. They included safety and energy usage among others issues. Howard advised it was not possible to shut down the building at this time and it would remain open for Senior lunches and other uses. He has been monitoring the propane usage and has kept the ceiling fans on to distribute the warmer air down to the lower levels of the building.

Sherri Venditti questioned the status of the lunches and if the building were to be shut how would the Seniors get to the alternate lunch locations. Howard advised they would have car-pooled but that will not be necessary as the building will remain open. He also advised that by keeping the fans on, a small light bulb is also on as it is part of the fan operation.

Judy Hoag asked whose decision it was to close the building and Howard explained he had brought the issue to the Selectboard after discussing with the Seniors. Since the building is to be kept open there should be no further issues with the COA lunches and availability of the building for other uses.

Alan motioned to adjourn the S/B meeting and open a Board of Health and then reconvene the S/B meeting. Mitch 2nd, vote 3-0 and S/B meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

S/B meeting reconvened at 7:05pm, all present.

Class II Used Car License was issued to Kim Baker for Big Picture Agency.

Ann Marie Visconti of Becket Road voiced her concerns regarding the mud situation on her road. She stated there were ruts 6-10" deep and made travel virtually impossible. She also said she would be willing to have "Road Closed" signs made up and post them on the road so it would just be available for local use. She felt this would minimize some of the problems. Alan said Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, had called him to advise of the mud problems on some of the unpaved roads and that if he trucked in stone to the affected areas this would just worsen the situation as the weight of the trucks would worsen areas of the roads that were not muddy at this time. Skip also questioned who would police the road if it were posted for local traffic only.

There was extensive discussion on what could be done both short-term and long-term to alleviate the mud problem. Everything from just dumping stone in the areas to the installation of a fabric. The fabric installation would require removing approximately 12" of the top gravel, laying the fabric and then covering with gravel. This option would be quite expensive but Skip will further investigate. Now, once the roads refreeze, he then grades them to make them passable. It was also mentioned his budget for maintaining the gravel roads is limited and perhaps discussion at the Annual Town Meeting would provide additional funding.

Joe Kearns said since the Transfer Station was built in 1982, this has been the worst mud he has seen there as well.

Tamarin Laurel-Paine requested information from the previous S/B meeting regarding Pot Luck dinners, she was given a copy of the just approved minutes.

There was discussion on the multi-town forum that was held to discuss Worthington's possible withdrawal from the Gateway Regional School district (GRSD). Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, attended the meeting and advised the bill filed on behalf of Worthington to withdraw had cleared the State House but still had to go through the Senate and Education Dept. If Worthington were to leave the district, it would add another \$.55 to the Middlefield tax rate. Towns like Huntington, Chester and Russell would be under the gun, the Russell rate would increase by \$1.35.

Alan advised Joe the S/B would like to meet with the Finance Committee (F/C) to review the department budget requests with the department and F/C.

Selectboard meetings will be scheduled for January 13th & 27th and February 10th & 24th.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd, vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser