

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2014

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$10,622.58; Expenses: \$183,768.67.

Eric Weiss address the Board regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the replacement of the doors and windows at the Highway Garage and Fire Dept. The cost for the overhead doors for the Highway Garage was much higher than anticipated as the original Green Grant Expenditure did not include insulated doors and motors. The bid of R&R was accepted on a motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0. These renovations will significantly improve the heating costs at the garage.

Bills for the installation of both furnaces were received from Eric and will be processed for payment under the Green Grant award.

Eric also submitted a bill for \$2,150 for administering the Green Grant.

Eric will put together a RFP for a new propane furnace in the Senior Center. The current furnace is at least 20 years old and supplies 120,000 BTU's, it is undersized for the building and Eric will request a 200,000 BTU replacement.

Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent, brought Chapter 90 paperwork for the Board to sign. He also obtained an estimate for damages done to the new truck when it struck a portion of the railroad arch while plowing. He is waiting for an adjuster from MIIA to contact him about the damages.

Alan advised he has attended various meetings dealing with Worthington's attempted withdrawal from the Gateway Regional School District (GRSD). The Home Rule bill that was filed on Worthington's behalf was approved by the House and is currently being held in the Senate. If it passes, Middlefield will see an increase in its share of the GRSD budget as will all towns in the district.

Town Hall kitchen was discussed next, 2 proposals for a hood and fire suppression system have been received and the AA will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> company come out and submit a proposal. Judy Hoag advised there may be a hood and suppression system available that is currently in the former Wild Cat Springs restaurant in Chester. Mitch felt kitchen use should be allowed as long as the Town is going forward with making the repairs. Common sense is being pushed aside and it is up to the Board of Health to decide if the kitchen can be used in its current condition. It has been used for years in the past and he thinks it could be used now. There was further discussion and Alan said it was a building

code violation to operate without the hood, etc. Prior situations in Town now require the Town to toe the line and follow the regulations.

Sherri Venditti questioned if the kitchen would be “grandfathered” in and would only have to become current when improvements were made. Howard will speak with the Building Commissioner for clarification.

The Town Center Committee has met with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is optimistic funding may be available for the former General Store site.

Discussion on the annual Town Report and Board agreed it should be dedicated to Brian Miller. AA will obtain a photo of him and Mitch volunteered to obtain a poem that Judy Artioli wrote and read at Brian’s memorial. Photos will be welcomed for publication in the report.

Next item discussed was Town Counsel. Alan has been looking at models of a “cap” or retainer” where money appropriated would be returned if the Town did not use up the value of the retainer. AA will also continue to pursue additional information.

AA requested permission to pursue replacement of the exterior kitchen door, the Town would buy the materials and hire a contractor to replace it. Alan motioned to allow AA to continue, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 in favor.

Wally Smith spoke up and agreed that the Town Hall kitchen should not be used until it meets the current building code.

Minutes of last meeting were approved on motion by Alan, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:35pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser

