

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Expenses: \$54,098.64; Payroll: \$6,033.44

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

Jack Kozynoski appeared before Board to have Right of Refusal either signed by Board or have Town purchase property. Property in question is being sold to a land trust. After brief discussion, Board agreed it was not interested in purchasing parcel and signed off on Refusal.

Mail reviewed: USPS has hired agent for reviewing and negotiating leases, AA to contact lease company.

Eric Weiss emailed two qualified respondents to RFP to repair ceilings in Town Hall. RFP submitted by Acheson Co. in amount of \$4,360 and Dale Hoag in amount of \$2,450. Eric would recommend either. After discussion, Alan motioned to accept RFP from Dale Hoag, Mitch 2nd; vote 3-0 in favor of awarding to Hoag. AA to email Eric with results.

First item discussed was the Reverse 9-1-1. Noreen Suriner had requested an article be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant (ATMW) to fund and implement this service. Alan advised this would cost approximately \$1,000 per year. Howard questioned how cell phones would be contacted if these numbers were not recorded with the Town. Larry Pease, former Fire Chief, stated there was already an emergency system in place that is activated through dispatch and it is a free service. The Fire Chief would call dispatch and advise of the area or street to be notified and the calls would be initiated. All of the Middlefield phone numbers are in the dispatch database. There was additional discussion and it was agreed that there is a system in place and the additional cost was not warranted. AA to send email to Noreen with explanation.

The Council on Aging (COA) Board has requested an article on the ATMW to have the terms of Board members staggered on 3 year appointments. Howard explained there would be more continuity if the members did not have to be replaced or reappointed every year. Alan wanted to know more about the process and questioned the number of members. Howard said he took the wording from 3 other Town Boards to compile the wording for this article. The COA Board would be the nominating committee and would then bring the names to the Selectboard (S/B) for appointing. There was discussion regarding the wording of the article and the wording had to be specific so as to not leave too much open for interpretation. Alan motioned to support the Article and place it on the ATMW, Mitch 2nd; vote 3-0.

Town Counsel (TC) usage by various Boards/Commissions/Committees was next on agenda. Terry Crean, ZBA chair, spoke of his need to contact counsel to establish escrow accounts so the petitioner can pay for any expert services the ZBA may need to contact. This would require the applicant to put the money up front into the account and any excess monies would be returned to the applicant at the end of the process. This account would be used for any engineering, etc expertise that was needed to process the application. Alan motioned to allow Terry to contact TC, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

The Building Commissioner (BC) has previously requested permission to contact TC on various issues that he has been asked to undertake. Specifically, the BC would like to speak with TC regarding the “trailer park”. There was discussion on use of email versus phone contact, phone contact can be more productive as one question or answer can lead to another and the issue may be resolved in one call rather than a string of emails. S/B to discuss further with B/C before authorizing contact with TC.

The S/B has a procedure in place for contacting TC. Howard stated that others that may need TC advice have to sometimes wait for 2 weeks to get approval to contact from the S/B. Mitch said the S/B is the gatekeeper of the budget and 2 out of 3 S/B members must agree before TC can be contacted, there can't be Carte Blanche contact with the attorneys. Alan hopes a retainer or cap can be set up for the next Fiscal Year with TC and that would avoid the need for approval by the S/B.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, spoke to the Board regarding the fire suppression system for the kitchen. Any system whether new or used would have to be rated UL300 or newer, installation must be done by a licensed installer. The BC would issue the permit and Ron would witness the test.

Other items he brought to the Board:

- 1) The propane tanks located on private property on Root Road have the plugs pulled and can't be refilled; he can't force the owner to remove them.
- 2) If the Town chooses to go with Northampton Dispatch there still would be a \$1,500/year charge from Berkshire Dispatch for the ambulance service to the Town.
- 3) The Forestry Grant money has been spent and he has put in for reimbursement.
- 4) The Dept now has 21 new Turn Out suits

Sherri Venditti asked how the Fire Fighter classes were going and was advised that some classes have been taken and the practical applications have to be completed. Also, the inventory of all the surplus military vehicles and equipment is done and all has been accounted for.

Last item discussed was the ATMW with Finance Chair, Joe Kearns. Conservation Commission has reduced its expenses from last year to \$1,000. Police expenses are

increased as request is to buy new vests for the officers as the current ones are now past their recommended life. There was discussion on the Highway budget for fuel; this reflects the anticipated increased costs of diesel fuel. Also, highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, has requested \$50,000 transfer from the Stabilization Fund and borrowing \$50,000 to replace the 2000 Ford F550. The cab is rusting out and he is continually repairing various items on the vehicle. The money requested would be for a fully equipped replacement vehicle.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes.

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

Mitch Feldmesser