

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Alan Vint, chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; David Dinicola
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant (AA)

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$8,391; Expenses: \$21,567.81

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

School Committee members Sarah Foley and Noreen Suriner meet with Board to discuss Worthington withdrawal and ramifications for the Town. Extended discussion followed. The whole situation is complicated and a law suit has been initiated to either slow or stop the process. Other regional districts are also watching this very closely as it could set precedent. Recent cuts in the Education budget by the governor have also put an additional burden on the Gateway District. Worthington is planning on sending its students to Hampshire Regional School for grades 7 through 12 on a tuition basis while retaining their own elementary school. They are negotiating with Hampshire for them to provide administration to their elementary school.

There are many areas of contention with regard to the withdrawal and what portion of post-employment costs Worthington would bear. Also being questioned is the Home Rule petition that was passed that allowed Worthington's withdrawal. Sarah said the School Committee members from Middlefield are frustrated; they want to oversee the district's education and not have to fight this battle.

The Board thanked the members for coming and representing the Town in a very positive way.

Dave advised he had spoke with Kathy O'Brien and she will be submitting her time sheets on a monthly basis to avoid the recent confusion that occurred before Christmas.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he had the last round of well testing paid under the Building and Maintenance Account. Also, he received a complaint from Judy Peterman about her driveway washing out. He inspected the driveway and determined the washout was caused by water running down ruts in her driveway and not from the road. He also advised there was nothing new to report on the delivery date for the new truck, there is a 12 week wait period to obtain the truck from Ford and the is goes to the body builder to complete it. He still does not expect delivery to the Town before sometime in March.

Building usage policy was discussed and AA will make changes to reflect approval by Selectboard's office and Serv-Safe certified person be on site if kitchen to be used.

Howard advised the screen and projector in the auditorium are up and running. There still is wiring that has to be completed.

Dave wanted to know how the Town can get the information on the available housing funds to the residents; he was advised to check with Erica Johnson at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Alan motioned to adjourn the Selectboard meeting, not reconvene, and open a board of Health meeting, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, clerk

David DiNicola