

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Carol Wagg appeared before Board to accept position on Conservation
Commission, Alan motioned to appoint for remainder of year, Howard 2nd;
vote 3-0

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$5,986.40; Expenses: \$5,549.29 and
\$157,438.77

Minutes reviewed and accepted on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Catherine Grey appeared to request a license to operate High Horse Hill
Therapeutic Horsemanship. She is licensed as a therapeutic provider and
insured and will provide horse riding as a therapy for individuals. Board
agreed to grant license.

Mail reviewed Gateway budget received and a proposal to log the Slocum
Lot.

Discussion of logging and it was agreed the Board will further investigate
and then seek bids for the timber harvest. AA will contact Sean Libby, State
Forester, for additional information and help. On a motion by Alan, Howard
2nd; vote 3-0 it will be up to any winning bidder to arrange for a right-of-way
to haul the logs out of the property as it is land-locked.

The CodeRED contract has been reviewed by Town Counsel (TC), TC has
been in contact with them regarding wording changes in the contract. TC has
done this for other towns involved with CodeRED.

WiredWest mailing has been received by residents and the mailings used the
Town Hall as the return address, the Town was not involved in these
mailings and a letter to the Country Journal will be prepared in response to
this mailing. There was additional discussion regarding WiredWest and the
many faults in this mailing and the continued changes in their approach to

the various towns. There is a 3 year window to join WiredWest and currently of the 45 towns involved, only 31 have signed on for this year. Steve Harris has been pursuing various avenues to bring high-speed internet to town.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board he had received the bid package from HCOG for paving and the Town received approximately \$24,000 in "Pot Hole" money from the State. The Pot Hole money must be spent by June 30th. Skip plans on putting the top coat on Root Road and having engineering studies done to the 2 bridges in town that are in need of repair. He will use Chapter 90 money for these reports and apply for a STRAP grant for the bridge repairs. There was further discussion on work to be completed this summer and also getting an early start on repairing the potholes around town. There was also discussion on attempting to get Skyline Trail designated as a State Highway as Middlefield appears to be the only town in the State without a State Highway. Skip advised that Worthington and Peru have to maintain Route 143 out of their town budget so there may not be any advantage of having a state highway.

Skip is to place Jersey barriers on Ryan Road.

Howard advised a walk-thru would be done at the Senior Center to complete the contract but moneys would be held back pending repair of the landscaping and determining if the sewer line was damaged. Tamarin Laurel-Paine addressed the Board regarding solar installations in Town. She is considering putting a photo-voltaic on her business and there are discounts for bulk buying of the material. It would be charged to each individual at a discount. The State also offers percs for installing; she would like to see a Town Committee formed to pursue this. Discussion centered on the problems in keeping this separate from the Town as the installations would be for private use.

Howard stated there were about 40 people present for Erin Judge's presentation on the Mills in Middlefield. Also, the Town will receive a block grant for addressing handicap accessibility in the Town buildings.

Also discussed was the possibility of placing articles on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant seeking to hire a Town Administrator or adding more duties and responsibilities to the current Administrative Assistant position. Both would cost additional dollars but the Town does need more

professional management. Questions were posed from residents regarding specific job descriptions, what functions duties would be given to this individual, etc. There was general agreement the Town Hall needs to be staffed on a more regular basis.

The Board then met with the Finance Committee (FC) to review a draft of the proposed warrant for the ATM. One area agreed on was to increase the hourly rate of the custodian to \$12/hour, which would be in line with her rate at the transfer station. The Fire Dept has requested the purchase of a new pumper truck as the current truck is a 1975. There will be continued meetings with the FC prior to finalizing the warrant.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola