

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants were reviewed and signed, Payroll: \$6,130; Expenses: \$13,487.78.

Initial discussion was regarding Ryan Road and current condition of the open portion of the road. Alan wanted to temporarily block it off at West Hill Road for safety reasons; Howard did not believe it could be done legally. It was decided that Alan would check with Town Counsel (TC) regarding blocking off road.

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

CodeRED contract was received back with changes TC recommended. Alan motioned to sign the contract, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and Alan signed.

Howard said the Council on Aging is trying to clarify Suzanne's position regarding upgrade as her responsibilities are greater and also increase her salary.

Alan would like to see a Warrant article requesting money to replace the current auditorium chairs that are uncomfortable and built for smaller persons as they are leftover from the grammar school. AA will check on chair prices.

There was discussion on the budget and duties of the Selectboard (SB) and Finance Committee (FC). According to the By-Laws the SB is suppose to prepare the budget but over the years it has fallen onto the FC. There was additional talk on starting the budgeting process by the SB right after Christmas.

SB to meet with FC at next meeting to continue going over the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant.

Howard spoke about WiredWest and request to have SB approve of the warrant article for the ATM. Discussion among Board members again reiterated facts that the Town would be responsible for paying the bond necessary to install fiber optic cable to residents and that 40% of the residences would have to sign up and make their initial payment for this to go forward. The board feels at this time it is a huge risk with no guarantees. There is a 3 year window for the Town to move this forward and the Board needs more information prior to recommending. On motion by Howard to not recommend, Alan 2nd; vote 3-0, the Board did not recommend the WiredWest request. Also, the letter the Board composed to send to the Country Journal to counter the recent mailings to townspeople was approved on a motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Howard reported the Annual Town Report was 97% completed and should be ready for the printer within the week.

Alan reported Jim Barry of the Department of Environmental Resources would be willing to come to the Town Hall and speak to the SB regarding the filing of annual reports. These reports are a requirement of the Green Grant. Hampshire Council of Governments should also be invited to this meeting as they were suppose to file the reports. Howard said PVPC would be happy to step in and take over the filings.

When Alan spoke with Solarize Mass last week and they also would come to the Town if invited by the SB and speak on solar usage. It was agreed they should be invited sometime in May.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised he is waiting until the snow is gone before hiring a company to inspect the sewer line at the Senior Center, the cost will be \$285. He is currently checking on approved engineering firms to inspect the 2 bridges that are in need of repair. Also, he was looking for the Pot Hole paperwork that the State sent 2 weeks ago. Skip left the meeting to check the mailbox at the Post Office.

Howard had the contract for the Southern Hilltown COA consortium that was drawn up by Town counsel. The contract spells out the responsibilities of the towns. This covers 5 towns and Russell is the host community. When questioned about an exit strategy, Howard advised it requires 6 months notice. Alan motioned to accept and sign the contract, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Howard also advised that Judy Hoag was now the new Chair of the COA.

Skip returned and the letter was in the mail, it appears it was sent to a wrong address initially. Alan signed the paperwork and Skip took the originals and will hand deliver them to Lenox this week when he attends a Chapter 90 meeting.

A key box was discussed and the AA advised he had already ordered one last week.

Dave questioned if the Highway Superintendent could be appointed for 3 years. He was advised the By-Laws required a one year appointment.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola