

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
MAY 26, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$114,388.81; Expenses: \$27,456.40

Andy Myers spoke to the Board requesting use of the Town hall auditorium for the Chester Theater's rehearsals. In the past they had used Gateway but it is unavailable this year. The theater is willing to pay the same rate that Gateway charged, \$350. It would be used from June 15<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals are normally held 5-6 days a week. There would be no sets used, just the stage area. After discussion, Alan motioned to allow the use, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote-20 to allow. Arrangements will be made with the AA for using the auditorium.

Executive Session minutes were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

David DiNicola arrived at 6:10pm

Regular minutes were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed: Alan signed the HRMC contract for the Transfer Station.; Scanlon Associates sent agreement letter for the audit, Alan motioned to accept and sign, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0. Alan and AA will attend the Selectman's Association meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Alan submitted a Focus and Priority list (attached) and discussion was held on the list. Some items are relatively easy to accomplish while others will take additional time and effort.

Dave spoke regarding the Highway Dept. and his recent interaction with them. He stopped at the garage just before 7am to speak with Skip and was told he was not working and was in going to Boston that day. The other members of the dept. were not ready to start work. When Dave spoke with Skip later, he was told Skip had left them a list of jobs to do. Dave feels

there needs to be a job list and daily list of the work completed. He realizes there will be fluctuations in the list as a priority may arise but their work must meet the expectations of the job. Dave also feels there may be a need for part-time summer help to assist in many of the jobs, for example: weed-whacking and trimming the roadsides behind and under the guardrail. Also, it does not make sense for Skip to be doing paperwork when an assistant could be doing it at a much lower hourly rate.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, then met with the Board. He has received 3 quotes for the engineering on the two bridges and would like to review them with the board. It was agreed that the Board would meet next Monday at 6pm to go over the quotes with Skip. Also, Skip has been doing patching and grading during the past week.

Alan advised he has been in contact with PVPC regarding the Town Center and there are many variables, the whole issue is moving forward slowly.

Next item discussed was the Hudson lawsuit in Housing Court. Alan went to Court with the Town Attorney. The Hudson's were seeking injunctive relief and that was denied by the judge, also, the Condemnation Order issued by the Town will stand. We are waiting for the judge's decision on this matter. Also, the Hudson's sent a letter seeking settlement of the issue. They have agreed to removing all living items from the barn and returning to use it only as a barn and negotiating the legal costs against their cost of the septic system design that was denied by the Town. There was discussion regarding this letter the ZBA acted in good faith by telling the Hudson they had to put money into an escrow account to cover possible costs of their appeal. The letter will be sent to town Counsel for review.

Howard advised the Communication Committee (CC) had met with AXIA regarding possible internet service for the Town. AXIA had sent a non-binding agreement to the Town and this will be sent to Town Counsel for review.

Also the CC met with the Chester PD regarding possible use of the repeater located on Skyline Trail. They did set up a make-shift repeater to check on radio reception in Town and they were able to receive transmissions in all of the "dead" areas. There are also concerns that the cost of using Berkshire dispatch could be rising to \$12,000

AA advised the plumber had repaired the faulty toilet in the men's room and the custodian closet mop sink and the kitchen floor drain need to be roto-rooted to clear them.

Marge Batorski advised the flag in the Town Center was missing on Memorial Day. There was discussion regarding how flags were obtained and who paid for them. AA will contact our Veteran's Agent to see if flag can be obtained.

Also discussed was the fact the cemeteries were not mowed for Memorial Day, this was upsetting to a number of residents. The mowing is handled by the Cemetery Committee; this will be further investigated so this can be corrected.

Marge also informed the Board the family of Jeremy Bouffard, who was killed in action on August 22, 2007 in Iraq was interviewed on local TV on Memorial Day.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:53pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola