

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2015

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll: \$12,134.89; Expenses: \$157,700.71

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

David DiNicola arrived at 5:45pm

Howard addressed the road discontinuances. He felt anyone owning property on a discontinued road could block other land owners from using the road on their property to get to properties further up the road. There was further discussion and this will be addressed at a later time.

Howard also said that Steve Harris is not the computer technician for the Town as he does not get paid to straighten out Town computers. Steve does run the web site and helps as much as he can.

Alan addressed the recent conflict between the Chester Theater using the auditorium and the SHAEC computer classes. The AA took responsibility for the conflict as the SHAEC was not on the calendar but has been posted long ago on the web site. The usage calendar is now in the Selectboard Office so this will not happen again. The AA also put a call into the SHAEC representative and sent her an email requesting the usage dates for July and August.

Dave and Alan advised they had walked the Slocum lot with Sean Libby, State Forester, to see if there was timber that was harvestable. The lot could be cut but a cutting plan needs to be developed so this timber can produce a steady stream of revenue. The AA will look into finding a forestry service to develop a plan.

Bernie Kubiak, HCOG grant writer, met with the Board to review any possible grants that may be available to the Town. Currently, the new administration has frozen the State grant money and he is waiting to see what will be released and available for various projects. There may be money available for public safety through the Dept of Homeland Security and MEMA.

This discussion was interrupted at 6:15pm so bids could be opened for the lawn mowing, propane and diesel bids. There were 2 bids for the mowing; Wayne and Noreen Suriner put in a bid of \$4,350 and Alan Vint dba Tapestry Landscaping submitted a bid of \$350 per mowing. Alan did not participate in the discussion but the other members questioned the specs and how the differences could be worked out. Howard motioned to table the bids until the next meeting, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and mowing tabled. George Propane

submitted a bid of \$1.435/gal for the propane and Alan motioned to accept, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0. AA will notify George Propane. Mirabito Fuels submitted bids for either a fixed yearly price, \$2.5704, or a charge above the market price in Springfield, currently \$2.0501/gal + \$.2654/gal. Wheeler Oil of Chester submitted a bid of \$.30 over his cost at time of delivery, current price \$2.68. These bids will be discussed with the Highway Superintendent at the next meeting and award then after a motion by Alan to table and Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Discussion then continued with Kubiak. The Board said money for the brownfields at the former General Store was a priority and PVPC has been working on that and the Town has been in contact with Mass Development for additional funds. The Town will be applying for funds in the next round of Green Grant funding for improvements to the Senior Center. Kubiak felt there should be a long range plan to include a safety complex and improved library, either in a new location or a rehab of an existing building. He also advised there are low interest loans available through the USDA that can be used for public projects. Many of the grants available are geared toward larger communities and the HCOG is lobbying for a pool of money for the smaller towns. Kubiak also said some projects can be a combination of public and private grants.

He also said the Community Preservation Act gives towns a pot of money to draw from, however, the town has to pass this on a ballot vote at an Annual town Meeting. The money is currently being matched at \$.62 on the dollar. The CPA levies a 3% surcharge on the property taxes charged to the homeowner so a \$1,000 tax bill would result in an additional charge of \$30. There are also exemptions that apply so the rate could be lower. He did not get into the exemptions at this time.

The Board asked who paid for his services and at this time he is submitting to HCOG. The Board thanked him for his time and information.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:55pm to the board could attend the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola