

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
AUGUST 24, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; David DiNicola  
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Minutes of 8/3/15 Board of Health approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 8/3/15 Selectboard meeting approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 6/10/15 Selectboard meeting approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 8/17/15 Selectboard meeting approved on motion by Howard, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 with Alan abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.

Mail reviewed: MBI grant application reviewed, this grant is for additional study of options for high speed internet for Town. Short discussion followed, this \$5,000 grant will allow for update on previous study. Howard motioned to accept, Alan 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0. Alan signed the grant.

Transfer Station (TS) was discussed next. Dave met with Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, on Sunday to assess site. There needs to be more organization on the site. Skip recommended putting two storage containers at this time and then assessing replacing the current building that is in terrible condition and unsafe. There was \$14,000 appropriated at a previous Town Meeting for replacing the build and the revolving account for the TS has approximately \$20,000 in it. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the TS should be organized and small steps taken at this time. The site has a lot of ledge and some of it may need to be removed prior to any building be erected.

Town Administrator advised the SREC's for the solar were recently sold and the Town would be receiving just under \$3,000 for the 11 SREC's. The current selling price is \$400/SREC and the Hampshire COG will be selling them on a quarterly basis to gain the best price for us. The next sale will be in October.

Also, the 3<sup>rd</sup> well was drilled today behind the abandoned house adjacent to the former General Store. The water will be tested some time next week and we will be informed of the findings.

Next item discussed was the Senior Center and the cost of keeping it open during the winter months for the weekly luncheon. Howard said that last year when the sewer pipe froze the lunch was served at the Town Hall and all seemed to go well. If this were done

again this year it would result in significant heating costs as the Senior Center could be shut down if the heat lowered to 40 degrees for the winter. Skip advised the fiberglass batts under the building are failing and will need to be replaced. Current COA chair, Judy Hoag, said she would discuss this at the COA meeting next week.

Howard then discussed the future of the library. He questioned if it was worthwhile to maintain it as it may no longer be necessary with the internet available to many for research and reading materials. Many libraries are becoming obsolete.

Trustee, Chris Bresnahan, took exception to the possible discontinuance of the library and for the lack of notice that was given to the Trustees about this topic. Extended discussion followed on this topic. Chris advised that every child in Town has used the library during the year, the librarian runs after school programs that are appreciated by the children. It also provides internet access for the many homes that are not able to obtain access. Noreen Suriner said the library is one of the few precious things the Town does for the community and closing it would be a mistake. It was also brought up that if the Town completes the Tax Taking of the General Store, the adjacent building may be an option for the library, which would give the library more space.

Alan noted that this topic brought a greater number of participants to the Selectboard meeting and that was good.

Howard then spoke about putting information on the Town website as it is received; he mentioned the draft letter from the accountant regarding the recent audit. He was advised that preliminary information can be damaging and the final report will not be what people see.

Noreen Suriner spoke of her displeasure regarding the payment of the lawn mowings she submitted, the TA has sent her a letter stating she would only be paid for 3 mowings and not the 4 she submitted. The mowings were submitted as a "cycle" and she explained that some lawns are on the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle while others are on the 8<sup>th</sup> cycle. The bid specifications were per mowing. This will be addressed between her and the TA.

Alan recused himself from the Selectboard meeting and spoke as a citizen. He has done the mowing the prior year and found it necessary to only mow every 10 to 14 days and this was how it had been mowed prior when Chuck Winn was doing the mowing.

Terry Crean, Chair of the ZBA addressed the Board about his concerns over appeals filed with the ZBA regarding Cease and Desist orders issued by the Building commissioner. Two parties have appealed and hearing will be scheduled. Terry would like permission to speak with Town Counsel and, if necessary, have Town Counsel appear at the hearings. There was further discussion and Alan stated that both parties have retained attorneys and they will come with legal representation. The Board agreed to allow up to 2 hours of contact with Town counsel during the preliminary stages and then come back to the Board prior to the hearings.

Town bid By-Law was discussed, currently 3 bids are necessary for matters under \$4,000 even though the State allows for 3 phone bids for things under \$35,000. If this is to be changed, it will have to go before the Annual Town Meeting.

The MBI Chair is to attend the September 14<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

The Post Office has asked for a building permit to install a handicap ramp into the building. The TA will check with the USPS to make sure the ramp would be removed if the trailer is ever taken out.

Last discussed was the Personnel Policy regarding carryover vacation and sick time. The Town does not have a current policy and the TA is working on it.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by  
:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, clerk

David DiNicola