

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Alan motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations on the Hudson lawsuit and then reconvene open meeting, Dave 2nd. Vote: Alan, Aye; Dave, Aye and meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

Meeting reopened at 5:38.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$12,964.40; Expenses: \$15,963.15.

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

Mail reviewed nothing of importance.

Judy Hoag, COA Chair advised the COA Board met and discussed the option of closing the Senior Center for the winter months and having the Wednesday lunch at the Town Hall (TH). She had figured the heating costs for last year to be approximately \$3,400 and projected the costs for this coming year to be \$2,500 with the decrease in the cost of propane. Even if the Center is shut down, it will still have to have a minimum heat to keep everything from freezing. There was extended discussion regarding this including the pros and cons. The TH has ample parking and potable water, however there is no emotional attachment to the building, there is no dishwasher and stove is difficult to light as there are numerous pilot lights that have to be lit when the gas is turned on. Also, it is not as cozy as the Senior Center. This winter, the COA is going to put plastic sheeting over the windows to help reduce heating costs. The majority of Seniors want to keep it open during the winter.

Alan and Dave agreed to keep it open and see how it goes.

Judy also advised the COA had received 3 bids for moving the water pipes away from the exterior walls in an attempt to lessen the possibilities of them freezing during the winter. \$10,000 had been appropriated at a previous Town Meeting for improvements. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

TA advised he had contacted the USPS regarding the handicap ramp they want to install at the Post Office. He received guarantees that the ramp would be removed if the Post Office trailer is ever removed. Alan motioned to have the Building Commissioner issue the building permit for this, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

Howard Knickerbocker and Steve Harris, Communication Committee members submitted a draft for a Special Town Meeting seeking an appropriation for funding the emergency radio improvements. This would include buying and installing repeaters so there would be radio communication throughout the Town. The costs for this would be about \$30,000. Currently there are dead spots where communication is not possible, this was evident last year when a visitor drowned and the police could not contact anyone via radio.

Also discussed was the possible change to Hampshire County for the 911 calls, this would not cost the town any money and would save the \$9,000 anticipated cost charged by Berkshire County. There was extended discussion and it was agreed that all the emergency departments would take part in further discussion on this.

Alan advised the last well in the Town Center had been drilled and tested as well as the previous wells. Testing was within the standards on 3 of the 4 wells and that a Temporary Solution could be filed. There have also been ongoing negotiations with the DEP on forgiving the lien for their earlier cleanup. Mass Development does have funding that the Town can apply for for further work at the site. The kerosene tank is has not been removed but had previously been filled with a cement slurry;

Dave spoke on the Transfer Station and that once DEP approval is granted pads should be poured for the metal and demolition containers.

Ron Radwich, Highway employee, advised the Board he is retiring effective 10/31. According to the retirement rules, he will have to resign as Fire Chief but could be reappointed after 30 days.

Alan motioned to adjourn, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola