

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Meeting opened at 5:00pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola; Robert Costa
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$11,640.41; Expenses: \$60,922.81

Minutes of 2/1/16 meeting accepted on motion by Alan, Bob 2nd; vote 2-0 Dave was not present at that meeting.

Minutes of 2/8/16 meeting accepted on motion by Alan, Bob 2nd; vote 3-0.

Board met with Fire Chief Ron Radwich to review budget requests for Fiscal Year 2017. Dept. expenses of \$8,000 are for the everyday operations of the dept. and for replacement of Scott Air Packs if reconditioned ones become available. Rest of budget is the same as last year. Training has been in house and Ron was urged to look into furthering the training of the volunteers.

The Board next met with Police Chief Tom Austin. Tom said he will be retiring in 3.5 years and is looking for younger officers so one could take over for him. He raised the chief's salary to \$2,000 in anticipation of higher pay for the next chief. Reserve School requires 332 hours of training before candidate can become an officer. Current officers do 40 hours of in service training each year. Currently he has 4 officers and all are from Town but it is getting more difficult to find in town officers, this is a problem in many of the small towns.

Alan advised the DEP has submitted a Settlement Agreement on the Haywood property, former General Store. This has been discussed with DEP and the Tax Attorney for months and DEP has agreed to waive their lien. It is moving forward.

Bob attended the last GTAC meeting and a consultant has been hired to review the school budget which is down 10-15%. Bob feels the administration of the district has to be accountable and not just make cuts from the education budget. Also, he has been in contact with Senator Downing's office regarding the "last mile" financing.

Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting met with the Board to discuss a possible hybrid system for the "last mile" high speed internet. Fred said he configured a system that uses 10 miles of fiber and would connect 50% of all the homes via fiber. He has the coordinates of all the houses in town and they would be reached with either fiber or wireless. Best case installation would be within one year for the wireless and up to 3 years for the fiber. The fiber system would require permission from Conservation Commission, etc as the fiber would be passing over wetlands. The wireless service would also be able to carry phone service through a 3rd party provider. Television would be more complicated as the Town would have to buy the channels from a 3rd party provider

and that tends to be more expensive for smaller servers. He felt a minimum of 10mb speed could be provided for the internet. Rates for the services would be set by the town. A 3rd party provider would be hired for billing and maintenance of the system.

Fred provided an outline of the system that could be constructed showing 25mb to most and at least 10mb to everyone on the system. The break down of the monthly fee based on 60% (150 users) of the houses would be approximately \$75 and includes depreciation of the system for future upgrades and repairs.

Dave questioned if MBI would still provide the \$580,000 if the Town did a wireless system. Fred said he was not sure and that was one of the questions that has been asked of MBI. The governor has a freeze on the funds as of now and not sure when they would be released. Dave also questioned maintenance of the systems. Wireless is not susceptible to ice damage and falling trees.

There was discussion regarding poles, tower locations, which areas would have fiber, equity of users having fiber vs. those having wireless, etc. Fred said technology for wireless systems is improving every day and the wireless could be upgraded if the Town felt it would be worthwhile.

Alan thanked Fred for his presentation and noted that the wireless would be a significant upgrade to what the townspeople currently have.

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

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa