

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Meeting opened at 5:00pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Denis Basak
Duane Pease, town Administrator (TA)

Mail from DEP regarding Transfer Station Grant in amount of \$1,900 was signed by Chair. TA to mail back and copy to Kathleen at HRMC.

Meeting held to further discuss wireless Pilot Project. Denis obtained estimate for a guyed tower that would replace the monopole in original project. Cost of tower is \$9,970; labor to install is \$9,965 and stamped engineering plans cost is \$750. Quote is from XX Tower, would take 2 days to install and site location is not a problem. Tower is guyed from two points on tower, would be total of 6 guy wires anchored at 3 spots.

Dave sees this as a problem that has divided the Town and feels we should go back and start over on the pilot. There were good people doing the original work but there was a lack of communication within the town. Planning and Zoning were not consulted and inaccurate facts were given to the Selectboard. He is not sure this is the right time to go forward.

Denis stated the approval of the program came down from higher ups and Middlefield has the grant and no need to go back to the beginning. Two towns were able to by-pass the readiness program, Mount Washington and Middlefield, because of the work done by residents in the towns. Dave said the readiness program has changed since the town's approval and the only way to get additional funds is to go through the revised readiness program. Denis said the only thing facing the town is the Pilot Program, it has been funded and the town should go forward with it and once it is completed, and then go through the readiness for the remaining funds. The ultimate goal is a self-sustaining network.

Dave said he is thinking beyond the pilot and there is not enough money to complete the entire project without going to the town for more funding. Denis added there is \$270,000 in the towns allotment for engineering but the town had gone out and obtained the engineering necessary to complete the build out.

There was continued heated discussion on these issues. Dave spoke of the inconsistencies and it seemed like there was a lot of "shooting from the hip". He wondered how the Transfer Station spot was picked; TA advised three spots were considered: Fair Grounds, behind the Town Hall and the Transfer Station. Transfer Station was chosen as it was very close to what the Fair Grounds offered and it was economically suited.

Dave also questioned Steve's qualifications and he is not a construction manager. Denis advised Steve has done the best he could for the town. Dave said he is going to do what MBI wants, make sure all the residents are up to speed on the project and it needs to be discussed with Zoning and Planning.

Dave said he is in favor of the wireless internet and that it would bring coverage to 100% of the town while the MBI requirement is only 96%, but he wants to slow down the process and make sure it is done right since the initial bids came in way over the projected budget. Denis added he was still not sure why the project had to go out to sealed bids and that the prevailing wage issue affected the budget as well.

Sherrri Venditti spoke and said the board should wait for the 3rd member to be elected. Also, MBI has issued a RFP to commercial entities regarding the installation of fiber for the networks.

Denis said if the wireless is built out and failed there is much less risk than having a more expensive fiber system fail as the town would stand to lose a lot more money with a failed fiber system.

Maureen Sullivan, former Planning Board member, stated the town by-laws limit the height to 50' and she felt the cell tower by-law did not apply to an internet tower. Also all of the setback would also apply to this tower. the 2/3rds vote on by-laws by the residents provides protection for neighbors.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Denis 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Denis Basak