

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Denis Basak; Judith Hoag
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,827.48; Expenses: \$27,831.58
and \$4,542.26.

Dave explained to Judy the importance of going through individual bills to
make sure the expenses were authorized.

Minutes approved on motion by Dave, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed: received letter from Land Court confirming the Town now
owns the former General Store and adjacent house.

Hilltown Collaborative is requesting Town join in IT assessment, there is a
5% cost to be shared by the 6 towns. TA will follow with Andy Myers,
Chair, for actual costs. Denis stated he was at one of the meetings and the IT
costs for the towns were high.

Hampshire County Selectboard Association meeting and dinner scheduled
for Jan. 26th. Dave and Denis will attend, Judy will check her schedule. TA
will advise of attendees and meal choice.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, met with Board to have them sign off
on his Chapter 90 reimbursement requests for the paving of Chester Road
and River Road.

There was discussion on the need for monthly accounting of the incoming
income and how it is received. There needs to be a system in place so
everyone on the Board has knowledge. Treasurer appears to not use
available accounting programs to make this easier to identify.

TA advised there were parcels sold in 1986 as land of low value and the
documents from DOR were never submitted and/or recorded with the
Registry of Deeds. Owner named Fedak is now attempting to sell his land
and can't obtain clear title. TA has searched town records and could not find

any indication this was received, DOR does not have records dating back that far.

Ron Radwich, Fire Chief, has requested Town Counsel review patient refusal letter for treatment. Town has not had one in the past and relied on written refusal if the ambulance service is cancelled prior to arriving on scene, TA has sent the letter to Town Counsel.

Board would like to meet with Finance Committee prior to drafting of department budgets.

Also discussed was the Transfer Station, Dave would like a breakdown of the receipts: electronics, furniture, metal, etc. The Town subsidizes the budget enough so it would be helpful to see if the hauling costs for these items are being covered by the fees charged.

Job descriptions were on the agenda and discussed. Dave feels there is a need to know what the duties and responsibilities of each position is. Judy advised the COA has a manual that the COA follows as far as duties go. Since most position in Town are volunteer positions this may be difficult as there are still a number of positions open. There was further discussion and it was noted the paid positions do have job descriptions and the State does note responsibilities for positions in the General Laws. Also, there is no updated personnel policy that would provide up-to-date descriptions.

The Wireless Project and MBI were discussed next. Judy said after the last Selectboard Meeting she contacted Larry Smith of PVPC who had assisted the Town By-Laws. She would like to get the project moving forward. Larry said the Town should be wary of any “spot” changing of the By-Laws for the tower and use caution when going forward. There is clearly a By Right use for the town for the tower; however he questioned the dimensional and set back aspects of the by-law. Dave said the variance application should be discussed and that the application to the ZBA should have come from the Selectboard. There was further discussion regarding the on-site plan, Town Counsel’s interpretation of the Zoning By-Law, the Zoning definitions and what can and can not be assumed by individual’s interpretation of the By-Law. Gita Jozsef stated that Steve Harris; discussed this issue with the Building Commissioner (BC) and after discussing; he edited the application and vetted it with the BC.

Dave wants to proceed with the Readiness process and Denis said MBI approved the pilot and it should move forward. Also, if the BC issues the building permit for the tower there is no need to file for a variance with the ZBA.

Dave also said he met with MBI on Tuesday and the Readiness forms can't be completed by one person. He wants to keep the dialog going with MBI and specifically Cornell. Cornell can provide engineering expertise as well as advice on financing the rest of the wireless construction. MBI said they no longer need any of Middlefield's pilot program data as they have data coming from another source. They also want to make sure that the Town is using the latest equipment available for the wireless internet. MBI also wants to know what the Town can afford and will be able to sustain the system into the future.

Dave want to protect the Town from liabilities as this entire project will pose serious risks to the Town. There needs to be a total review of the entire project.

Tamarin Laurel-Paine said it would be nice to know what will work as presently all the Town has to go on are the slants from WiredWest, Fred and MBI.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Denis 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David Dinicola, Chair

Denis Bask

Judith Hoag