

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

Present: Denis Basak; Judith Hoag; Duane Pease, Town Administrator; Chair, David DiNicola was absent.

Judy motioned to appoint Denis as Temporary Chair, Denis 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,833.66; expenses: \$123,719.96.

Discussion with Building Commissioner, Bill Girard, regarding various inspector rates. Question if revolving account should be set up for plumbing/gas inspector. Currently inspections are \$50 with \$45 going to inspector and the account is budgeted for \$600. There was continued discussion regarding the use of the on-line permitting and updates the inspectors are required to input once they have inspected. BC is not sure if the Electrical Inspector is doing this.

Mail reviewed; request from PVPC for Chair's signature on joint application for grant. Denis motioned to have Dave sign; Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and Dave will sign on his return,

Minutes approved on motion by Denis, Judy 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Andy Myers of the Hilltown Collaborative and Joshua Garcia of PVPC met with the Board to update the progress of the Collaborative. Currently the Collaborative is addressing resource sharing. Best practices and economic development. A \$40,000 grant was obtained for the economic development portion and ELON was retained to develop a strategy for the 6 towns. Also, the collaborative hope to obtain a grant to fund a full-time economic developer who would act as a coordinator for the towns in pursuit of future development. Andy also presented a letter of support for the Board to sign; this letter will be sent to Sean Cronin who is the Deputy Commissioner for Local Government. Andy will email letter so it can be put on Town letterhead. Board agreed to sign and return. One of the problems the Collaborative is addressing is the fact that the 6 towns have a combined population of approximately 6,000, the area is spread out and resources are not always available for each town. Personnel and equipment could be shared and that would help to reduce costs to the towns. Joshua said that PVPC is willing and able to provide support in this endeavor. Chester is the lead town in these efforts. There was continued discussion as to what areas could be addressed.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the Board his snow budget is almost depleted and he is looking for additional money to be authorized. After discussion, it was agreed an additional \$15,000 should carry the snow removal budget through the rest of the winter. Judy motioned to authorize the additional \$15,000, Denis 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0. Skip also advised that Chris is due for an increase to \$19.75 and would like the Board to put in

the minutes the increase. Denis motioned to increase his hourly rate to \$19.75, July 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Finance Chair, Joe Kearns, stated the school budget for FY'18 would be approximately \$30,000 less this year for Middlefield.

Sherri Venditti questioned who was responsible for shoveling the steps and handicap ramp at the Post Office. It is not possible to reach the handrail as the steps are not fully shoveled. She was advised it is the responsibility of the Post Office; the Town only has to plow the lot. Judy said she would speak to the mail person about this.

Marin Laurel-Paine questioned who was going to attend the MBI hearing and give testimony. Denis said Dave had asked him to represent Middlefield and he had his 3 minute speech ready. There was further discussion about the latest information from MBI and the responses to their RFP's. Joe Kearns suggested someone speak with Westfield Gas & Electric as they are now wiring Westfield with fiber in competition with Comcast. They have also been asked by Otis to survey the town for the possibility of providing high speed internet. Also, it appears that none of the unserved towns have asked MBI to do any engineering for their internet.

Denis motioned to adjourn, July 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Denis Basak

Judith Hoag