

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Judith Hoag
Duane Pease, Town Administrator
Absent: Denis Basak

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$22,009.23; Expenses: \$7,065.08 & \$13,330.03

Minutes not approved as Denis was absent and Dave absent from previous meeting.

Mail reviewed: Board ok'd Health Agent letter to be sent to Miriam Sternagle regarding condition of house on Skyline Trail.

Communication committee member Joe Kearns brought the Board up to speed on the recent MBI public meeting in Worthington. Many spoke during the public session and much had to do with the lack of movement by MBI and frustrations of the towns involved in trying to obtain high speed internet. MBI said that so far none of the unserved towns had applied for the engineering offered by MBI. Westfield Gas & Electric is competing with Comcast in Westfield under their subsidiary Whip City Fiber and is willing to come to the towns to discuss installing a fiber or hybrid network.

Joe also said that Frontier Communications had their RFP vetted by MBI and then when it was submitted it was told it was no good. Comcast is completing the wiring of Chester and will stop at the Middlefield town line.

Howard Knickerbocker read a statement to the board (copy attached to minutes). There was continued discussion. The revamped WiredWest may be an alternative as well as some other providers. There is a WiredWest meeting this Saturday and Joe will be attending. Judy feels there is a zoning issue and the Town cannot disregard the by-law and that there was a reason this by-law was passed.

Howard said there should be a committee to study the broadband issue and that Sherri Venditti and Marin would be good candidates for this committee. Dave said in the end the townspeople will have the final say when it comes to funding any high speed internet. Discussion on this continued and Judy suggested seeing what providers would make a presentation to Middlefield.

Town Report was discussed next, Board will check with Denis at the next meeting to see if he will be in charge of putting it together.

Proposed budgets the Selectboard is in charge of was discussed next. All stayed the same with the exception of the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector which were

recommended for a \$100 increase each. The mowing budget was reduced by half to \$2,500 as the Town now has its own mower.

Joe Kearns, as Finance Chair, advised the Gateway budget was approved by the School Committed, the Hilltown Collaborative will meet in Chester on 3/2 and the Gateway MARS report will be presented in an open meeting at Gateway.

Dave advised he had received estimates for the asbestos inspections for the former General Store and adjacent house. He had requested estimates from 3 companies but only one responded. The costs are \$1,470 & \$1,720, both will be completed at on the same day.

Insurance coverage is under continued review. '73 Power Wagon may be eligible for antique plates and stated value appraisal may also be necessary.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, advised the department was given 10 gallons of paint. He would also like to purchase 5 sheets of particle board to finish closing up the interior walls. This was okayed and bill will be paid under Building Maintenance.

Maureen Sullivan questioned the withdrawal of the Town Attorney that is handing The Preserve law suit. She was advised another member of KP Law took over the case and it was not a problem.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag