

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

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

Dave called for a moment of silence to remember Board member Denis Basak who recently passed away.

Warrants were not available

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

Letters to Representative Kulik and Senator Hinds regarding the lack of transportation funding for regional schools approved on motion by Dave, July 2nd; vote 2-0.

Letter to House Speaker regarding raising the tobacco buying age to 21 approved on motion by Dave, July 2nd; vote 2-0.

Matt Radwich had submitted design for signs advising dog owners to pick up after their dogs was approved on motion by Dave, July 2nd; vote 2-0. TA will contact Matt and advise to make the signs.

Next, Dave motioned to call a Special Election to fill the seat that had been held by Denis Basak, July 2nd; vote 2-0. TA will send notice to Town Clerk.

Assessor Laura Lafreniere met with the board to discuss to open position on the Board of Assessors. The 3rd member, Ann Marie Visconti, has recently resigned. Laura would like the board to appoint Gita Jozsef as the 3rd member. Gita was defeated in the last election by Tamarin Laurel-Paine by one vote. Laura stated that Gita was a certified Mass assessor and would be willing to serve out the remainder of Ann Marie's term. Dave said he had spoken with town counsel, Jonathan Silverstein, and since there is to be a Special Election for the Selectboard seat, the assessor's position could also be on the ballot. He felt since the voters spoke and did not reelect her it would be wrong to appoint her back in. Dave also said he called DOR and obtained a list of certified assessors that would be qualified for this position, that person could be appointed to the seat until the Special Election.

Laura said she wants someone that can do the work, the FY end is 6/30 and Gita had done the work necessary to close out the books. There was continued discussion and Susan Donnelly's

name was mentioned as a possible replacement as she has all the qualifications but when Laura spoke with her, she was not interested.

TA advised there were 3 options that were available for filling the position, the election that has been discussed, appointment until the end of Ann Marie's term and appointment until the Special Election.

Dave and Judy agreed they would set up a conference call with Jonathan for Friday to discuss further with him. TA will post agenda for this first thing Wednesday morning.

Markelle Smith of the Nature Conservancy met with the Board next, they are interested in obtaining the former Benyei property on Ryan Road. They took this property for back taxes in December 2014. There is about 24 acres and is adjacent to the Merrill property they purchased a few years ago. The land would be kept as open space. TA will check with Tax Title attorney, Ron Berenson as to the options for disposing of the property.

Town Center was discussed next. Dave advised he had received the asbestos survey and the costs related to its removal. \$18,415 for both buildings and another \$2,000 for the environmental testing. If the store is to be taken down, Dave said the Highway Dept. could rent an excavator and it would take 2-3 days to complete. He also stated he would be willing to help at no charge to the Town. There would need to be a consensus of the town before any demolition could be done. Jay Swift, Town Center Committee member, said there have been many conversations over the years on what to do with the building and it is time to move forward. It would be nice if there were some sort of ceremony honoring the building prior to demolition. Demolition seems to be the only remedy for the space as rehabilitation costs would be in excess of \$250,000 and the building does not have a septic system or well.

Howard Knickerbocker said it would be nice to save some small items and perhaps a beam for the museum.

TA has put together a brief description and photo and would like to send it to Preservation Magazine to see if there are any restoration entities that may be interested in saving the building. Judy motioned to have it sent, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and TA will submit. Also, TA advised that a couple of years ago Mass Development stated there could be up to a \$50,000 grant for demolition.

TA has drawn up job postings for the Transfer Station Attendant and Town Hall/Senior Center custodian positions and will post them in the Country Journal.

PVPC has submitted a Memorandum of Understanding for Dave's signature, this MOU is for PVPC to pursue a grant for a building audit. This audit would be used in the hopes of obtaining additional green grants from DOER. Dave motioned to authorize signing, Judy 2nd; vote 2-0

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised he had reviewed the paving bids secured by HCOG. He plans on paving Bell Road from the highway garage to Scott Artioli's.

TA will check with Town Counsel, Jonathan Silverstein, regarding the 10am Friday conference call.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag