

SELECTOBARD MINUTES  
JULY 17, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:07pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$16,753.66; Expenses: FY'17 \$31,571.77;  
FY'18 \$91,638.06

Mail reviewed; nothing of importance.

Board met with the recently hired Economic Director for the Hilltown Corroborative, Jeanne LeClair and Andy Myers, Chair of the Corroborative. Jeanne has on the job only a few weeks and she has been going to all of the six towns, introducing herself and listening to the different needs of the towns. She is aware of the different needs of each town and the assets of the area. There was discussion with the board including costs of vocational education, not all towns share the same needs, sharing of services such as accountant, treasurer and tax collector as Middlefield does already, Gateway budget not decreasing in proportion to the decline in students. Jeanne said cities offer more and better paying jobs but a portion of the millenniums do not want the "city life" and are attracted to the outdoor life available in this area. This area is beautiful and that can be used as an asset to attract people. One of the main areas of need is for high speed internet, of the 6 towns only Chester and Huntington have this. Jeanne has been in contact with PVPC, the CDC and Jacob's Ladder Business Assoc. She has set up a website: gatewayhilltowns.org to keep people abreast of what is happening. Dave said the "mom & pop" operations are not going to help the towns but things such as an east-west rail stop could be attractive.

Transfer Station was discussed next. Dave and Skip have been helping out and there is a need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> person to help. This would make sure items put in the metal or demo bins would be paid for and would help Olivia keep things in order. The Senior Work Off Program could benefit from this; Judy said she would see if there were any interest Senior at the Wednesday Lunch. There was continued discussion and new signs will be posted advising residents of charges, what can be dropped off etc. TA will have article in the Country Journal advising stickers are available and to check with attendant for cost of disposing of metal, electronics, etc.

Judy next discussed the proposed by-law submitted by the Communication Committee to the Selectboard for review and then to pass on to the Planning Board. This by-law would allow the MLP to be exempt from the Planning and zoning by-laws. There was discussion and neither Dave nor Judy were in favor of this. Judy motioned to not pass on to the Planning Board, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0.

Last item was continued discussion on the high speed internet. Dave said not all members of the Communication Committee attended the last meeting with WiredWest and they would have had an opportunity to ask questions and reinforce how a wireless system would be better. Dave has asked Bev and Jane to research financing option for the town if the townspeople decide to vote to borrow money for a fiber system. He also said there are many other pressing matters that will require the town dollars. There was continued discussion regarding pros and cons of networks, tax increases to residents and what happens if not high speed internet is provided.

Howard Knickerbocker said the Finance Committee should be involved and should have 5 year and 10 year Capital Plans. He also added he has provided a spreadsheet that show if 130 (60%) customers take the fiber it would provide a profit to the Town.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag