

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:03pm by Judith Hoag

Present: Judith Hoag; Albert Sirard; David DiNicola running late;
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Warrants reviewed and signed by Judy and Al; Payroll: \$18, 484.96;
Expenses: \$16,152.85.

Minutes approved with corrections on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0.

Judy advised the Planning Board would like to address the Board later in the meeting.

David DiNicola arrived at 6:20pm.

Jay Swift, Town Center Committee Chair addressed the Board on the decisions made by the committee. Jay gave a brief history of the committee. (See Attached).

Recommendation was made to tear down both the former General Store and adjacent house. (See attached). Brief recap was the cost of rehabilitation was unreasonable, schedule a Town Meeting to review costs and recommendations, hold a Remembrance Ceremony prior to demo and have a collaborative effort for the future use of the space.

Initially after the demo the area could be returned to its original open space and a park could be erected with a pergola erected using timbers salvaged from the store.

Jay said the Historical Commission had some concerns regarding the future of the buildings and came to 4 or 5 meetings over the years.

There was continued discussion between Jay and the Board regarding costs for demo and all of the work the committee had done over the years.

Jay concluded by saying the Town Center Committee would be willing to present their findings at a Town Meeting.

Fire Chief Ron Radwich advised he received the appraisal on the 1953 Dodge Power Wagon; it was appraised at \$23,000. He will contact the RMV to see if he can obtain Antique Plates as the vehicle is only used in parades, etc. and is not used to respond to fires. Also, 2 of the surplus trailers are gone and he is working with the State to see if other surplus equipment can be released and then he will be able to dispose of that. All of the old license plates have been turned into the RMV.

Planning Board (PB) Chair Doreen Black advised the Board the PB will be holding an Open Public Hearing on 10/30/17 regarding the Marijuana By-Law moratorium. After the public meeting the PB will review comments and send recommended By-Law to the Selectboard. She said the By-Law needs to be sent to the Attorney General by 1/1/18 as it usually takes 90 days for approval and on April 1, 2018 licenses will be available. The moratorium requires a Town vote so a Special Town Meeting (STM) will have to be scheduled. The By-Law proposed was developed and used much of a Pioneer Valley Planning Commission template. Time line is the PB has 21 days to report to the SB and then the SB has to schedule a STM.

Tamarin Laurel-Paine said the Assessors continue to use Karen and will be setting the tax rate. She also stated that a meeting of all the financial personnel should be considered; this was done in the past but not done recently.

Dave aid he has been in contact with Dave young of Warwick regarding their wireless internet system but has not been able to confirm a date to meet with him.

Under New Business Judy said the Transfer Station received a \$3,500 grant and that there will be a DEP inspection at 11am on October 2nd. Also, the Transfer Station attendant said it was now dark before the 8pm Wednesday closing time and it made it difficult to work; winter hours to start next week so it is not a problem at this time.

There was discussion regarding the Hilltown Collaborative, the dynamics of the financial aspect would change drastically for a town like Middlefield as the personal contact between the residents and the accountant, tax collector, and treasurer would be lost. That would be something to consider going forward.

Joe Kearns reported that Attorney Lempke attended the hearing last week regarding the appeal of the Court's decision on the Worthington withdrawal. Lempke does not expect a quick decision.

Dave said that despite giving her notice to quit, Olivia is willing to work another week at the Transfer Station. The back-ups, Henry and Scott will try to be available when necessary. TA has put help wanted ad in Country Journal for the Transfer Station Attendant position.

Dave also showed the Board a Certificate of Appreciation he received from the Town of Dalton for his volunteering on various boards. He feels Middlefield should a similar policy for the numerous people that volunteer there time.

Ta will be on vacation from 9/26 through 10/16. He will check emails and voice mail and direct any issues to appropriate people.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Al 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard