

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

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

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$17,535.19; Expenses: \$23,233.16

Minutes of 2/20/18 2pm meeting approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote
2-0.

Minutes of 2/20/18 6pm meeting approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote
2-0.

Dave arrived at 6:12pm.

Mail: MMA legislative breakfast scheduled for Pittsfield: no one interested
in going.

PVPC dues are increasing to \$84.08 for next fiscal year.

PVPC needs IT contact for Middlefield, Board agreed to ask Steve Harris to
be contact; TA to contact Steve.

Economic Developer was briefly discussed; Board questioned what value it
was to Middlefield. Will have Andy Myers and director at next meeting to
explain advantages/disadvantages. Andy will also go over proposed new
budgeting for Gateway Regional School.

Police Chief/Emergency Services: Tom has less than 11/2 years left before
he retires and Ed Vivier's passing has left the EMS without an appointed
leader. Ed did a lot of training and grant writing. Currently there are no
EMT's living in town. Howard Knickerbocker said it is more critical to have
EMT's than police. Dave felt that when Tom retires, the Board should look
into disbanding the Police Dept. he stated that Alford does not have a police
force and hires the State Police to protect their town. With more expenses
coming down the road, the police budget reduction would help. Howard
said the risk/reward and costs/benefits should be looked at over a 5 year
period.

Joe Kearns said a Public Safety Committee should be placed on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant so the residents can discuss the future of public safety.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised the board his snow budget is getting close and he will be asking for authorization for additional spending. Also, the 2009 grader will not go into reverse, he had a technician from John Deere inspect and test the grader and was told it needed a transmission. The current transmission could be rebuilt but there would only be a 90 day warranty, if a rebuilt one was installed, the warranty would be 1 year. The cost of a rebuilt transmission is approximately \$34,000. a Special Town Meeting would have to be held to transfer the money from the Stabilization Fund. The grader only has 4,000 hours and 13,000 miles on it.

The dept. has been working on the roads and using the tractor to rake them. He has also been putting stone on the dirt roads to alleviate the mud.

Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, said the Fire Dept. is requesting 2 articles on the ATM warrant; one for \$11,500 to purchase 14 Scott Air Packs and \$26,000 for a 4x4 tanker.

New business: TA requested permission to sell the 2003 police cruiser as the replacement title has been received. TA also advised the Board that the Sarah Dickson Trust was dissolved by the Probate Court in 1998 and the monies can be used for “the benefit of the children of Middlefield”.

Judy wanted to know status of Personnel Policy; TA advised it is ready to send to Town Counsel for review. TA will forward to KP Law. Also, there has been no response from contact person listed in the on-line info, TA will follow.

There was discussion regarding the Broadband Committee, Howard suggested a kick-off meeting be scheduled to get the committee organized. There was additional discussion regarding duties, etc.

Judy also wanted to know if the locks on the Senior Center could be replaced as a number of doors do not have corresponding keys. TA will look into having locks replaced and all operate with one key.

Dave had spoken with a forester and was given a price of \$00 to have him survey the timber on the Slocum Lot. Dave motioned to hire him, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0.

Dave advised he is still having problems getting information from the treasurer and Al said this has been discussed enough and it is time for the Board to act. If info is requested, Jane should provide it in a timely manner. The Board had requested monthly and quarterly reports from the accountant and treasurer; the monthly requests were okayed to be quarterly as it does take time to reconcile reports.

Howard questioned where he request to be reappointed to the Historical Commission stood as he asked for this 6 months ago. Judy said he had checked with the only current member, John Savery, and will follow with him again.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard