

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 2018

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Judith Hoag and Albert Sirard; David DiNicola, Chair on vacation  
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

First item discussed was the appointment of a constable to replace Ed Vivier who recently passed. TA had spoken with Curt Robie, retired Town police officer. Curt is willing to be appointed to fill the remaining term. Judy motioned to appoint Curt, Al 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 to appoint Curt.

Howard Knickerbocker has sent email to Selectboard regarding the unappointment of Marin at the last meeting. Al wants the email attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Laura Lafreniere and Marin Laurel –Paine, assessors, met with the Board regarding the Baker’s appeal of their property tax. Assessors met with Karen Tonelli on Friday and since this case is now before the Appellate Tax Board it will be necessary for the assessors to retain legal counsel. They estimate the cost to be \$8,000-\$10,000. There was discussion as to who usually does appraisals and why this informal hearing has turned into a formal hearing. Assessors usually do the appraisals but not all assessors are allowed on the Baker’s property, it will be necessary to hire an independent appraiser, the move to a formal hearing was recommended by the Dept. of Revenue.

Property owner, Kim Baker, said in the informal hearing requires the property owner to have the entire burden of proof as to why the value should be less and it is very rare to have a formal hearing on this issue. A formal hearing will require each to retain attorneys and increase costs. Laura said with an informal hearing there is no paper file and the parties just get the decision with no explanations. In the formal hearing there is a permanent record of the proceedings. Kim also said the assessors, specifically Laura, sent correspondence to his wife that was upsetting to her as she has an incurable terminal disease and he is the property owner and should have been sent to him.

There was continued discussion on these issues including having the prior 3<sup>rd</sup> party appraiser revisit the property and update the appraisal. No solution was agreed to at this meeting.

Maureen Sullivan questioned the stats of the “camp ground” on Cone Road. She was advised all appeals have been exhausted and the owners are attempting to sell the property.

The assessors then presented an article for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant increasing the monetary limits for the Senior Exemption. There was no opposition from the Board. Al did suggest they may want to lower the age to 65 from 70 as most are still working at age 65 and those that are not probably would benefit from the age reduction.

New Business: Donald Miller said the nieces of Jack Cobb would like a Selectboard member to call them with an update on the status of the property behind the Town Garage. They have heard discussions about eminent domain, the property be landlocked and would like to discuss. Judy said she would give them a call. And Dave can continue once he returns from vacation.

TA will contact webmaster and have the EMS position posted on the web site.

Eleanor Doyle wanted to know when the caucus was as she had not seen anything about it. She was advised the warrant was posted and the caucus is March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Al 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard