

Selectboard Minutes November 6, 2024

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Members, also present. Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant, was also present. Towns people in attendance were: Kenneth Murray, Karri Trask, Donald Trask, Maureen Longobardi, and Judi Hoag.

Warrants were signed, Minutes of Oct 23, and 28 were signed off on, and mail was reviewed.

Maureen Longobardi questioned if the Park Grant was available for review. Ann Marie stated that we didn't get the grant. Maureen questioned if there were mistakes made in the application. Donald Trask stated Maureen has a right to the grant, even if there is a cost. Plan was printed out for Maureen and given to Ann Marie to give to Maureen. This grant was for a new playground up at the town hall.

Judy Hoag reported that the Eagle Brass Ensemble is confirmed for their performance at the Middlefield Congregational Church on December 7, 2024, and that Dale Hoag is working on refurbishing the swings at the playground in the center of Town.

Tamarin reported that William Zeitler phone number is not working, possibly not accurate on the Website. Mark told Tamarin to get him a list of what needs revision on the Website, and it will be done. Mark reported that if he couldn't do it, he would contact the Town IT consultant, John Les.

Ann Marie Reported that Washington Selectboard has contacted Tom Matuszko at the Berkshire Planning Commission for assistance with filling the Town Administrator position for Washington and Middlefield. Ann Marie also stated that Tom Matuszko has already contacted Ken Walto. Ann Marie also stated that there is a company in Pittsfield that does scrap metal hauling, and Lind Cernik said it won't negate the contract we have. Ann also talked to Sean about the extra flooring the town is to get from the flooring contractor. The delivery is scheduled for Friday, November 8, 2024. The Town is to receive 4 cases of each color as well as the mop board. Ann Marie reported that town counsel is preceding with legal action on those people with illegal campers. Ann Marie also stated that Jay Swift did a nice job on the copper tops for the fence posts at the Town Park.

Curt reported that the sports equipment locker behind the Town Hall has been locked for the winter, and that he plans on repairing the backboard of the small basketball hoop. Curt also plans to ask the Town Highway to assist with moving the model of the Churchill house back into the auditorium. Curt sent out bid requests to 8 state approved vendors for engineering study on Cone Road. The opening of bids is slated for November 20, 2024. Curt also stated that the town could use \$3,500.00 from ARPA funds for new plans for the Senior Center repair of the center beam. A motion was made, seconded, and carried with 2 yea and 1 nay.

An application for the Town Hall custodian was received from Robin Savery. An interview will be set up.

Mark Doane then discussed the warrant signing off schedule. Mark reported that he was informed that the accounts payable vouchers and the payroll vouchers are to be signed at the same time. He also stated that somewhere in the past, the Selectboard schedule of signing warrants got changed. Mark stated that if the Selectboard wants to keep their current schedule, the members would have to come in on off weeks to sign warrants. This would prevent a disruption in bill paying and assuring employees received their pay. The Selectboard discussed this situation, and agreed to try to hold meeting on the day's warrants are to be signed. To this end, the Selectboard will have a meeting on November 13. Due to the Holidays upcoming, the Selectboard will have to come in and sign warrants on off weeks. The following dates for Selectboard Meetings were selected: November 13, November 20, December 11, January 8, 2025, and January 22, 2025. The Administrative Assist will let the Selectboard know when they need to sign a warrant during the Holidays. Mark will also receive a schedule from the accounting firm for the warrant schedule.

It was announced that a Capital Planning meeting, with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will take place on Friday, November 22, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the Town Hall.

A question was raised about the selling of land held in Chapter 61. It was reported that the Town does not get a "right to refuse", if the new land owner plans on keeping the property in Chapter 61.

No Further business to come before the Selectboard, it was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Doane,
Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine: _____