

Selectboard Minutes
April 21, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:37pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Doreen Black, Planning Board (PB) Chair on Zoom; had questions for Selectboard. PB budget is \$500 and they are working on a By-law amendment and need to have it reviewed by Town Counsel (TC), was advised the budget for TC would cover the charges if approved by the board, board agreed to cover cost. Also, PB has approved a plot plan for property on Town Hill Road and had left copies for Town Clerk and Assessors.

Warrants approved and signed; Payroll: \$17,046.51; Expenses: \$24,845.97

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

Members of Fire Dept. were present, including Chief, Ron Radwich and Deputy Chief, Larr Pease as well as Diane and Crystal. They were in attendance to review draft of letter proposed to be sent to residents regarding possible change in ambulance service from Hinsdale to Hilltown Community Ambulance. Question was asked why the need to change from a service that has been serving the town for a number of years and who recommended it. Ann Marie said she looked into the change as the COVID research showed that 42% of the Town's residents were elderly and based on this she wanted to make sure the ambulance service would address the needs of these residents.

Ron said the solution was simple: offer Hilltown the same \$2,000 that Hinsdale charges for their service.

Diane commented that she reviewed the charges for Chester from Hilltown and it increased every year and that there was an additional charge for a funding a replacement ambulance in addition to the yearly charge. Also, when a medical call comes into Berkshire, if it meets certain criteria, an ALS ambulance is dispatched from Pittsfield at the same time.

Ron said Hilltown ran a First Responder/CPR class for Middlefield and the people left more confused after the class. There was continued discussion regarding the services provided, Hilltown covers 6 towns while Hinsdale provided service to 3 towns, how would dispatch be affected as Berkshire knows what other ambulances are available if Hinsdale is on another call or not able to provide service.

Judy felt Middlefield Emergency Responders could make suggestions as to what they would want included on any mailing sent to residents and that we should have a representative of Hilltown attend the next meeting to have them make their presentation and answer any questions but the final decision will be up the residents at the ATM. Larry said it should just be Hilltown as the department already knows what Hinsdale does and has to offer, he also said he has worked

with Hilltown when they have been dispatched to town and they were wonderful to work with but the current service is fine. It was agreed that Hilltown will be asked to attend.

Next item was the gift donation of a gazebo for the Town Center from the Middlefield Benevolent Association (MBA). Judy explained the function of the MBA and when and why it was created. On a motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd and vote of 2-0 Judy abstained, the donation was accepted. Letter signed by members of MBA attached to minutes.

New business: on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; it was voted 3-0 to increase the Snow budget by another \$7,000. This will cover all additional snow costs associated with the winter.

Judy said that a resident asked for permission to use the fire pit at the Town Hall for a memorial gathering. Board agreed to allow as long as there is no fire danger.

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

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello