

Town of Brimfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall, 21 Main Street  
Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2018

Present: Chair: Michael Miller, Vice Chair: Harold Leaming, member: Paul McCarthy, member: Paul Vandal, member: Michele-Lee Shea.  
recording: Carol Camerota  
Others: Police Chief Kuss, Accountant: Marie Arsenault, Conservation: Roger deBruyn, Finance: Mike Doyle, Officer Olszta, 2 residents and Dan Camerota

Cable recording: S. Costa

(Miller) call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Payroll & Warrants:

Signed by Board

Minutes:

Review and approve meeting minutes of January 22, 2018.

Motion #18-125: by (Leaming) move to approve minutes of January 22, 2018, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

(Miller) Made comment on how he runs the meetings. He publically stated that people can't just jump up and speak. They should raise their hands and be recognized. He will continue to request microphones to be used. (Leaming) also commented about the complaint that came in from the previous meeting and that he was offended and apologized if he had offended anyone. (McCarthy) thought it was just a misunderstanding that participation is part of the meeting but the board also has work that needs to be conducted.

Review and Action:

Contract for IGS (Electric):

The IGS electric contract discussed at the previous meeting needed to be signed outside of a meeting in order to secure the rate. (Miller) signed the contract.

Sign quote agreement for re-certification testing on handicap lift:

(Miller) asked if the cost of State fee and inspection on the handicap lift totaling over \$1,000 could be avoided. (Leaming) responded that due to being ADA compliant this needs to be up and working. It's very important to have and needed for insurance as well.

Motion #18-126: by (McCarthy) move to approve Garavanta inspection of \$695.00 and State fee of \$400 for the handicap lift in the Town Hall, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Acknowledge & action for deficit in Winter/General Account #01-0423-5580:

Highway Surveyor notified the board that the Winter General Account is now in deficit along with payroll and other expenditures.

Conservation request for use of wetland filing fees:

Conservation is requesting use of their Wetland filing fees for administrative support. There has been an increase in wetland filings, NOI's and projects with DOT. There will be more in February which requires their Admin to advertise, issue order of conditions and meet deadlines of 21 days. She wants to meet these deadlines but has limited hours 2 days a week and also has meetings to attend which include doing minutes. (Leaming) asked if he had taken advantage of the Sr. Worker program. deBruyn said he had not and added the funds from the wetland account can be used as long as advertised. She would only need an additional 5 hours a week until the end of March.

(Miller) asked how many new filings there would be. By the next meeting he would like a breakdown of numbers over the last 5 years. The board discussed with Mr. deBruyn State laws and where the clerk salary account balance was now. The Board advised him to continue using the salary line item until it's gone and then come back. (Leaming) would like to see documentation at the end of the year. The clerk will keep a diary of work and hours.

Sr. Center annual agreement and request for direction on projects:

The Sr. Center is in need of air conditioning in their space at the Congregational Church. (Miller) suggested the contract be for 5 years. Will revisit this next year. Comment was made that the Sr. Center services over 11,000 people on half the budget of the Library.

Motion #18-127: by (Shea) move to sign the annual Sr. Center contract with the Congregational Church, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

Sr. Center bond bill support:

COA Director is asking for support for a request by Anne Gobi in the bond bill making its way through the legislature for \$1 million for planning, design acquisition and building of a senior center for Brimfield. This process may take a while the go through and might not even be approved or funded.

Motion #18-128: by (McCarthy) move to support the efforts of Anne Gobi for her request in the bond bill, seconded by (Leaming), all in favor.

Amendment to Selectmen minutes of 11/13/2017:

Request from Dawn Adams, Pastor at the Congregational Church to amend minutes of November 13, 2017. She and her husband are not members of the Tri Town Food Pantry board, however they do support their efforts.

Motion #18-129: by (Leaming) move to amend minutes of 11/13/17 that Pastor Adams and her husband are not on the board of the Tri Town Food Pantry, but do support their efforts, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

Re-visit Police Budget:

Chief Kuss submitted a chart to the board showing Police officers hours from April and November of 2009 through 2017. It's hard to figure exactly what hours will be needed with different pay rates and police presence. (Miller) needs to see how many hours were used in total going back 5 years. Chief Kuss replied that his budget is not based on what the needs will be. The hours represent many things such as patrol, paperwork, court, etc. The needs of the town should be there for all citizens. The State Police also cover the town in different parameters.

(Miller) appreciates the conversation. The Chief acknowledged that he still answers to the board but wants to be there for local support of the people.

Without the daily staff support such as what Sturbridge has, a daily log for residents to see is not possible. Opioid addiction is here and all around the surrounding towns. Things will also get worse with the new marijuana laws. The Chief's clerk line item was reduced several years ago to offset other line items.

A resident from Haynes Hill Road came in support of the department saying she owns a farm and times have changed. She supports the increase in hours of the Police Department. The Brimfield Police also spend a lot of time at the Elementary School and Tantasqua.

Ultimately the Select board are not in charge of the Police budget. Continuity is good between the residents and officers.

A wife of a Brimfield officer agreed that police presence is a necessity and overnight coverage is very important.

Volunteer work for Tantasqua students:

An email was received from 3 students at Tantasqua currently taking a Dynamics of Democracy class and wanted to volunteer in Brimfield. They would like to cover up overpasses in town that have graffiti on them with positive images or murals. Police Chief Kuss along with the board were in full support. Chief Kuss will help them contact MassDOT and also provide officer coverage when they begin.

Pick date for Flea Market discussion:

Meeting date for Flea Market discussions will be March 5<sup>th</sup> and the Chief will also attend. (Leaming) mentioned that a parking clerk and hearings officer are still needed.

Review and sign CDBG joint application authorization:

Two board members will attend the CDBG hearing tomorrow night in Wales for public social services grant. The board discussed wanting more numbers from the Tri Town food pantry's annual budget.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

M.K. Fuel:

A letter was received from DEP regarding M.K. Fuel and removal of its fuel tanks. No deferment was granted.

Hollow Brook Farms:

(Leaming) stated that the reason he recuses himself from conversations about Hollow Brook Farms is because when he was the Building Inspector in Brimfield he had to appear in court. He does this to avoid any conflict.

(Miller) received a phone call from Mr. Weston asking to meet him. (Miller) told him that the full board needs to be present. A complete septic needs to be done, not just approved. There will be no signing until the board is satisfied.

**Public Access:**

None.

Motion #18-130: by (McCarthy) move to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., seconded by (Leaming), all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

February 20, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Carol Camerota*

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: *Michael Miller* DATE: 2-20-18

Documents Utilized for this meeting

**MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE**

1. Minutes of January 22, 2018
2. IGS contract
3. Garavanta re-certification on lift
4. Winter General account in deficit
5. Conservation request for use of funds
6. Sr. Center annual agreement
7. Bond bill support
8. Minutes of 11/13/17 for amendment
9. Police hour chart
10. Volunteer work for Tantasqua students
11. Application authorization for CDBG