



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes March 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair. Curt Robie, and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members, were also present. Sean Curran, Town Administrator and Mark Doane, Town Administrative Assistant were also present.

Town residents present were: Logan Judge, Al Sirard, and Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Dan Bergeron, Sharon Bergeron, Doreen Black, Judy Hoag, and Michael Schafer from the engineering firm of Huntley Associates.

Sean reported that he had a conversation with a representative from Comcast in regards to a community cable channel. The representative told the Town Administrator that it would be costly, and would also require scheduled community programming. She stated the Town would be better off with the OWL and posting on YouTube.

The discussion then became a phone conference with Linda Cernik of the HRMC. One of the first questions to be posed to her was what is an acceptable pay range for the Transfer Station Attendant. She stated that area salaries average \$18.00 to \$22/\$23.00 per hour with many area transfer stations have two or more employees. She stated that Wayne Suriner is the only attendant we have on staff, and that he has done a wonderful job maintaining the transfer station to compliance standards. This includes managing the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Packing the paper bin to capacity without voids, keeping the "Middlefield Mall" clean and tidy, as well as tire recycling and the universal electronic waste.

Ms Cernik then went on to discuss the "Pay As You Go" program which is when town residents still purchase a transfer station sticker, however, also purchase stickers for bags of garbage they dispose of in the solid waste container. Ms Cernik states this will help reduce solid waste, and the MASS DEP encourages towns to adopt this policy. There is the potential for modified program for hardship cases. Stickers would cost the Town \$700.00 for 10,000.

The Selectboard then had Michael Schafer from Huntley Associates present his engineering plan for the Transfer Station. He began by stating that the Skyline Trail Dump Capping project is almost at a close, however, will require annual water tests per state requirements. One is to be done in the next few weeks, the other in June.

Mr. Schafer then discussed his company's proposal for the Transfer Station, which would be a 3-step project, beginning with a wetland delineation and survey, then a boundary/existing conditions

survey/plan & initial planning meeting, and then transfer station design, plans, & permitting. It was reported it would cost approx.. \$30,000.00 to complete this part of the project. Mr. Schafer reported that for the wetland delineation would be done by Stockman Associates. He also reported that he would have planning meetings with town after the surveys are completed. He also stated that he would need a decision by the Town by the end of March.

All questions were answered and Mr. Schafer left the meeting.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss which engineering firm to go with: Foresight or Huntley. A poll of the selectboard was taken by the Town Administrator. Ann Marie likes Huntley and Carol Waag recommended Stockman Associates for the Wetland Delineation. Curt felt Huntley is cheapest and they do good work. Just wants to make sure Linda Cernik is involved. Tamarin felt Huntley is working in a smaller price range by payment after each phase, and not all at once. She does feel the Town should have input in the plan, and that there are scattered parts that need to be brought together. No decision has been made at this time as to which engineering firm to contract with.

The meeting was then turned over to the public, and a discussion occurred on all that has been discussed about the transfer station, and whether the Town needed to do all the work. It was stated that the money for the Transfer Station is from grant money, and not the tax rolls. Other areas of discussion surrounded the ditches not being maintained. A question of the wetland delineation being necessary to be done. It was reported verbally that David Fuller says the DEP will fine us if we don't have the wetlands delineated. It was reported that Dave ~~Spat~~ Speight from DEP was willing to come up and work with us.

Sean asked Doreen from the Planning Board to get a letter of support to the Open Space Committee, as Carol Waag reports the Open Space Committee is ready to submit the final report. Doreen reported the Planning Board wants to know what the State wanted additionally in the plan, and they also need to see the original documents between the State and the Open Space Committee, before issuing the letter of support.

After all discussions, and no further business to come before the Selectboard, the meeting was declared closed at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Doane,
Middlefield Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:



Curt Robie, Member:



Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: