



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 29, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair and Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members were also present. Sean Curran, Town Administrator and Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant were also present. Town residents present Adair Laurel-Cafarella and Kenneth Murray.

A letter from KP Law, Town Counsel, was brought before the Selectboard about how the Selectboard would like KP Law to bill the Town in preparation for the end of the fiscal year 2024. KP Law has offered complete bill by July 8th, but they are willing to work with the Town for end of FY billing. As Middlefield is turning over to a new accounting system, it was recommended to have KP Law send the final bill to Middlefield by June 24, 2024.

A letter from "It Take A Village" (ITAV) was signed by all selectboard members showing their support of a Grant Application It Takes A Village is submitting for repairs to ITAV building.

The Town Administrator reported that the bids for the floor replacement in the Town Hall is progressing and will be ready to go out to bid within the month. Sean is working with Skip on a plan for roadside mowing. Sean also reported that the application deadline for the One-Stop grant is June 5, 2024, and is being worked on by Curt for the Senior Center repairs. Curt stated he got letters of support from Rep. Richard Neal and Sen. Ed Markey. Sean has also been working on a One-Stop grant for Johnson Hill, but is also going to incorporate Becket Road. Sean reported Loren Davine from Hampshire County Public Health will be present in the Town on Friday, May 31, 2024 to discuss the transition from Berkshire Planning to Hampshire County. Concerns were raised about the use of Permit Eyes, and William Girard, Building Inspector will continue to use that software system. Sean is also trying to get a photo opportunity with Sen. Paul Mark, who was instrumental in the Police Department receiving tasers.

Curt Robie reported that Skip was picking up the new trailer this date, EverSource was contacted again about non-working street lights, and they have been repaired. Curt is also continuing to work on the specifications for the Town Hall floors.

Ann Marie Visconti talked to Ed Fahey, Health Agent. Ed will be talking with Loren Davine about being a consultant for Hampshire County Public Health. A work party is being put together for June 1, 2024 to

assist Carol Waag with planting at the Town Park. Benches for the park are being looked into again, as the previous place cannot supply what we had ordered. Ann Marie stated that Doreen Black reported that a relative of the old Smith family had donated various historical artifacts that were the possessions of the Smith family. Those items have inventoried and the family donating them was given a receipt.

Tamarin Laurel-Paine reported that she doesn't see a need for a Capital Planning Committee when the Town already has a Finance Committee, and it seemed like a duplication of needs. Tamarin felt if the Town began imitating what other Towns are doing in terms of Capital Planning, we are going have more committees than people. Ann Marie feels we need wider representation. Sean stated other Towns are doing Capital Planning with separate committees. Sean stated he was going to be meeting with Eric Weiss and Ira Brezinsky from PVPC regarding Capital Planning. Questions were raised about what a Capital Planning Committee would be tasked with doing. The Committee would be checking age of capital items, replacement costs etc.

Discussion then went to end of FY spending and accounts. Tamarin reported that the Selectboard and Finance Board need to get up to date account balances. This will also allow the Finance Committee and the Selectboard to vote on account transfers, if necessary. Mark is to send to department heads to get expense reports in by June 12, 2024 to assure accurate payment can be made.

Discussion then took place on a playground for the Town. It was reported that the current playground is in poor condition, and one child received splinters from using the playground. Further discussion surrounded the type of playground, the age group, location, etc. It was recommended that a Playground Committee be developed to look at possible playground configurations, needs, etc. There is no plans to close the current playground, but a vote was made, seconded, and carried in a 2-1 vote to get quotes for deconstructing the current playground

Under old business the STM for June 4 is on track, Doreen will make copies of the needed paperwork for the public, and questions of a moderator. The Moderator will be elected from nominations the night of the STM.

Curt reported that the fire alarm is still not fixed and won't be until June 4, 2024 when John Les, IT consultant and Lee Audio can meet and resolve the issue. Lee Audio needs access to the computer port for the communication module in the alarm to no keep getting service disruption alarms.

No other business to come before the Selectboard, it was closed at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair

Curt Robie, Member

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member

