



Selectboard Meeting Minutes June 28, 2024

The meeting was declared open at 9:05 AM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine also in attendance. Sean Curran, Town Administrator, and Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant were also present. Town residents in attendance were: Adair Cafarella-Paine, Finance Committee, Ken Murray, Assessor, Doreen Black, Planning Board, Al Sirard, Maureen Longobardi, and Crystal Kruszyna.

The minutes of the June 12, 2024 Selectboard Meeting were approved and signed off. The Warrants were signed, and mail was reviewed. Mail included a request to have a public hearing on pole placement for a family in town that wants to build. It will be discussed later in the meeting.

Sean Curran stated that an article and photo was in the Country Journal about the Middlefield Police Department receiving tasers thru a grant, and that Senator Paul Mark was present for the photo along with Jenny Dion, Chief, and Alex Seid, Officer. Positive publicity for the Town. Sean is also reported that a public notice for three different bids for the town hall floors has been posted in the Country Journal. This is for moving offices/library, floor abatement, and placing of new floor tiles. He also reported that on June 26, there was an open house for prospective bidders to see what the job entailed, with 8-9 contractors present. Sean also began soliciting for estimates to remove the playground in the center of town secondary to safety concerns. Much discussion was held on if the town could take apart themselves, would town employees be able to bid on the project, or having a volunteer work party do it. If the Town was to do it, it most likely would fall on the shoulders of the highway department, which would take away time from their other duties. An employee of the Town would have to check with the State ethics board to see if it would be a conflict of interest, and in terms of a volunteer work group doing it, it was recommended not to dismantle the playground until other playground equipment is available to replace what is there. Instead of dismantling it, Ms Longobardi was wondering if the playground equipment could be auctioned off. Ms Black stated the metal components were still useable. Sean stated that the playground equipment will be dismantled, however, the question of when to dismantle. A playground committee has been established to discuss further needs and type of playground equipment to acquire. Sean reported he is working on getting documents ready to submit

for a grant to bring the Town Hall up to standard with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). This grant would also be looking at improving the handicapped accessibility for the bathrooms. Sean further reported that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from David DiNicola was completed, and was picked up by Mr. DiNicola. Maureen Longobardi was informed that the materials she requested under FOA would be ready on July 1, 2024.

Tamarin Laurel-Paine reported that despite requesting information on Green Communities, she has received none, and will be calling individuals. She also recommends and would like to see a paper trail on financial requests, and not just verbal agreements.

Ann Marie Visconti reported that she has been in contact with Loren Davine from Hampshire County Public Health. Ann Marie also reported that the town received a 23 page report on the delineation of wetlands from Stockmen Associates. This is concerning the wetlands at the transfer station and center of town. The town is still awaiting the survey from Huntley Associates due part of the land taken from the Cobb estate needed to be squared off by the surveyors. Tamarin reported that the Assessors don't have a copy of the survey that was done at the time of the taking of the Cobb land. Curt reported that Laurie LaFreniere told him the information comes from the Registry of Deeds.

Curt Robie talked about the Senior Work Off Program and what would be needed to add Veterans to the Work Off Program. The Article that was previously voted at an Annual Town Meeting has a limit of \$500.00 for work off. An amended article will need to be raised at the next Annual Town Meeting.

Appointments were made to the Historical Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Louise Harlow to the Historical Commission, and after much discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried by a 2 to 3 vote to appoint Mark Lipton. Letters appointing them to the respective boards will be sent out. Crystal Kruszyna was also a viable candidate for the position, and was thanked by the Board for her interest in the Zoning Board, and would like her to be involved in other areas of Town Government.

Crystal Kruszyna reported she went thru the covid supplies that are stored at the Town Hall. Many of the supplies have expired and need to be disposed of, including hand sanitizer. Crystal reported that the hand sanitizer can not be put in a drain, as the chemicals in it would kill the bacteria that is necessary for a septic system to work properly. Crystal did report that the face shields and gowns have approx.. another year and a half before they expire. Crystal did donate some of the Towns excess supplies to the Hinsdale Fire Department and Ambulance for their use. Curt stated that we have to clear out the expired items because we will need all the possible storage space we can get for when the Town Hall floors are replaced. Crystal also stated that she would have the Ambulance Contract between Hinsdale and Middlefield to include calls to other ambulances should the Hinsdale Ambulance be unavailable. Crystal also stated that this is covered under mutual aid.

Tamarin reported that David DiNicola is wondering if the Town is interested in selling the International truck. Tamarin also reported that Mr. DiNicola had questions about the millings and what the schedule was for use, who would be the vendor, are the millings in all locations being used or would the town be willing to sell some. This led to further discussion of the schedule the Highway Superintendent has for

Chipman Road and the time frame for beginning the paving of that road. The Superintendent will be invited to the next Selectboard Meeting for this discussion. There are no grants for town roads as of now. The One Stop Grant ids for the Senior Center.

Discussion was held on accounts to carry over from FY 2024. Those accounts are: the Town Audit, Assessors Revaluation, Town Hall Replacement Floor, Senior Center Repairs, and Construction of Town Park. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to request from the Finance Committee the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the reserve fund to allow full payment of the FY 2025 Hinsdale Ambulance bill. Another motion was made, seconded, and carried to transfer from the Police Compensation Account the sum of \$4,540.76 to cover the overage in the Treasurer/Accountant Software Account. The Administrative Assistant will fill out the necessary paperwork and submit to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Vadar will be up and running for the beginning of the FY 2025, with the Accountant and Treasurer being allowed to input figures, and other individuals to have read only access. Further questions were raised about \$90,000.00 transferred from the Stabilization Account to the General Fund. The accountant phoned in and reported that it rolled over twice by mistake. Bev will write it up so a paper trail can be had.

Tamarin questioned Sean about the OWL use, and Sean reported that the IT consultant is not able to connect to the projector we have. Also, questions were raised about training in the use of the OWL and Zoom.

Discussion was held on the Capital Planning Committee, and who should be on it and who should be voting members. Many positions and names were put out for being on the board including Skip Savery and Jenny Dion. It was felt that Skip and Jenny should not be voting members since they would be voting on potential funding for their departments. Sean explained that as of now, the Capital Planning Commission is an ad hoc committee to get it up and running. Sean would like to report back to Eric Weiss and Ira Brezinsky who the five recommended members for the ad hoc committee will be. Sean asked for a motion to appoint Curt Robie, Selectboard Representative; Jenny Dion, Police Chief; Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent; Dianne Thome, Planning Board; and Ken Murray, Finance Committee. Ann Marie Made the motion, Curt seconded, and motion carried unanimously to appoint those individuals to the Ad Hoc Committee. As the Capital Planning Committee becomes a permanent board, other individuals will be added as necessary.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the pole placement Eversource is requesting for #85 Chipman, if the Highway Superintendent gives his permission. Motion was unanimous. Addendum: Further investigation resulted in finding that a Public Hearing needed to be held, and abutter's need to be notified of said hearing. Public hearing will be scheduled

Under old business, and public input, Crystal K. was wondering why the Town no longer receives VNA services, and why residents are told, when requesting VNA services, that VNA doesn't cover Middlefield. Ann Marie will take matter to Loren Davine, Hampshire Regional Public Health. Al Sirard questioned if any road grants been put in. It was reported that it was too late to address Clark Wright Road. PVPC was looking at improving Clark Wright Road from intersection of Chipman Road to River Road. Doreen Black questioned why the line painting began at the Railroad Arch in the Bancroft Section of town and not at the Bridge in Bancroft. Sean will follow up. Doreen Black felt that there is a great deal of disrespect to her

Planning Board, and that she was hearing a great deal of disrespect for their expertise. She also felt that the Planning Board should be considered to be part of any multi board committee.

No new business was brought before the Selectboard.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was declared closed at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Doane,
Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie, Member: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine: _____