



Selectboard Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members present. Also present were Sean Curran, Town Administrator and Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant. Town residents present were Ken Murray, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Doreen Black, Jenny Dion, and Suzanne Lemieux.

Curt presented a Building Use Policy, which will be reviewed at an upcoming selectboard meeting. The Town Administrator and Highway Superintendent will be signing the application for the Dirt Road Grant.

Sean reported that the Westfield Wild and Scenic will be present in Middlefield on April 4, 2024 to aid us with helping us out with the Cone Road culvert. Ann Marie said she would put out a CodeRed to alert the Town to try to get an increase in attendance. Sean will also be meeting with Angela Panaccione and the Conservation Commission on April 1, 2024. It was reported that Ann Panaccione also recommended using the Dirt Road Study for redoing Cone Road, since Westfield Wild and Scenic is already involved with the Cone Road culvert.

Sean also reported that received a call from the Inspector General about getting people involved in local government. He will be meeting with him on Friday at 10:30 in Washington.

The proposal from the engineering firm Huntley and Associates was discussed at length. This was in regards to their proposal for the Transfer Station. It was reported that the first two sections of the proposal regarding Wetland Delineation, and the survey, could be covered using grant money. Part of the discussion was concerning that not enough research had been done, and there have been issues in other towns with DEP after Wetland Delineation. Part of the concerns for Middlefield are that in the past the Town didn't follow regulations and some was done even before regulations were established. A motion was made, and by majority vote (2 favorable, 1 against) to use the Huntley and Associates proposal but only for the Wetland Delineation and survey part of the proposal. The third component for the design will be put off for now. Ann Marie will sign the contract and have it sent off to Huntley and Associates.

The Highway Superintendent was present to discuss the new truck which will cost \$255,692.00. He is looking at using Chapter 90 money to pay off the truck in 2 years. The Town would have to take a loan

out though to pay the dealer outright. A motion was also made, seconded, and carried to move \$5,500.00 from the snow account to purchase the new wing plow for the truck.

The town grader was brought up for repairs. Skip reported that a rebuilt differential from United Construction and Forestry will cost \$36,000.00, \$1,000.00 to flatbed the grader to the repair shop, \$16,100.00 in labor. All told, the total cost is \$54,027.00. A request from the town will be made in the amount of \$58,000.00 from the Capital Stabilization.

Skip also reported that a Certificate for Dam removal will be obtained for River Road and Skyline Trail beaver dams.

Skip reviewed his budget, with no large expenditures anticipated.

Sean to talk with VFIS, for a proposal for supplying insurance for the Fire Department.

The Finance Committee will request a meeting with John Les to discuss budget for Website Maintenance and Technology. Sean is recommending \$10,000.00

The Selectboard reviewed the remainder of the areas on the budget that needed to be discussed. Police Officer Compensation was discussed, as the Chief reported that their compensation is several dollars below the lowest area rate of \$25.00 per hour. It was recommended to increase the rate for the Chief to \$28.60, and the Officers to remain the same. Chief Dion reported that the calls are more domestic in nature.

It was recommended to increase the Transfer Attendant pay to \$22.00 per hour.

The Council of Aging is requesting an increase to \$4,600.00.

Ann Marie reported that we will be using services from the Hampshire Regional Government instead of paying for Berkshire Planning.

Ann Marie also reported that town reports are due.

Curt stated we need to meet with James Burns about culvert/wash out at his land on Cone Road. Curt recommends doing this after the budget process is complete. Skip will also be invited to this meeting.

Next Selectboard meetings are April 3, 2024 at 3 PM and April 17.

There was no old business, new business, nor public input. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Doane,
Middlefield Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:

Ann Marie Visconti

Curt Robie, Member:

Curt Robie

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: