

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2024

MIDDLEFIELD TOWN HALL

Present:

Selectboard: Chair Ann Marie Visconti, Members: Tamarin Laurel-Paine & Curt Robie  
Moderator, Noreen Suriner; Town Clerk Suzanne C. Lemieux

The Town Clerk asked for a motion to appoint Noreen Suriner as Moderator for this special town meeting. The motion was made and seconded to nominate Noreen Suriner as Moderator for this meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Moderator Noreen Suriner opened the meeting at 10:00 am with a quorum of 49 residents and a warrant that was duly posted. Pledge of Allegiance was given immediately after the opening. The Moderator stated that none of these articles would affect the tax base.

### **ARTICLE 1:**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from free cash to be applied to the purchase of a trailer for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Selectboard; Finance Committee recommends

Skip Savery spoke of the benefit of acquiring the trailer. Adair Laurel-Cafarella said that it was part of the 3yr. financial plan. The accountant reported \$285,500 in regular stabilization, \$70,000 in capital stabilization, \$71,250 in School Stabilization and \$137,952 in free cash. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a trailer for the Highway Department at \$20,000. Motion passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$58,000 from the Capital Stabilization account to be applied to the repair of the Highway Department's Road grader.

Sponsor: SB; FC recommends.

Savery spoke of the mechanical problems of the grader and the expense of buying a new one. He also clarified the use of Chapter 90 funds. Cafarella stated that the FC had no other option except to recommend it. A motion was made and seconded to use Capital Stabilization account for repair to the Town's Road grader at \$58,000. Motion passed unanimously at \$58,000.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,800 from free cash to be applied to the Librarian Salary for the remainder of FY2024; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: SB; FC recommends.

After an FC study, it was found that the Librarian was being paid less than minimum wage. The FC recommended the hourly wage be \$15 per hour. A motion was made and seconded to use free cash for the Librarian Salary for the remainder of the fiscal year 2024. Motion passed unanimously at \$1,800.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$140 from free cash to be applied to Librarian Expenses in order to meet State requirements; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: SB, FC recommends.

Cafarella stated that the expenses had to be raised to match the wage increase.

A motion was made and seconded to use Free Cash for Librarian Expenses for the remainder of fiscal year 2024. Motion passed unanimously at \$140.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$400 from free cash to the Street Light account to assure that enough funds are available for the remainder of FY 2024 payments; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: SB; FC recommends

Cafarella stated that the electric bill has increased and that the funding has to increase. Larry Pease suggested that the street lamps be repaired as several have been inoperable.

A motion was made and seconded to use free cash to pay the Street Lights bill from Eversource.

Motion passed unanimously at \$400.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to spend up to \$208,809 to remove and replace all asbestos flooring in the Town Hall dependent on competitive bidding. Funding to come from \$49,000 previously appropriated at the 2023 annual town meeting, \$79,809 in Federal ARPA funding, \$80,000 from Free Cash, with any balance of funding remaining at the completion of the project to go into the General Stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: SB; FC recommends

Curt Robie explained the condition of the floors and costs involved. Al Sirard suggested encapsulating the floors with epoxy, which would be half the price. Savery stated that the epoxy would be lying on the tile that will rise as it is already doing now. Ron Radwich said that the Town has already voted to remove the asbestos at a special town meeting. The difference in costs were discussed as well as materials used.

A motion was made and seconded to fund the town hall asbestos removal and re-flooring project by spending up to \$208,809. Motion passed unanimously.

Birds of Prey presentation will be held tomorrow at Town hall.

Planning Board Chair Doreen Black announced several public hearings coming up, one on April 27<sup>st</sup> and the second to be announced.

The Skyline Trail Dump is now closed.

Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election are on May 4. Election 8 to 12, ATM 1:30

Meeting dissolved at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux