

Selectboard Minutes

February 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine were in attendance as well.

Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant was also present. Town residents present were: Donald and Karri Trask, Maureen Longobardi, Alfonso Longobardi, Louise Harlow, and Adair Laurel-Cafarella. Zoom was also offered to the Town residents with one person on Zoom.

Under Public input, Maureen Longobardi read a long statement that is attached to this report.

It was recommended to send the letter to Katherine Klein, Town Counsel concerning a letter from Jones Long LaSalle Americas Inc. in regard to a commission for the Post Office.

An update was given on converting the Town Hall phone system to Comcast. Much discussion was had, and it was recommended to contact Comcast, and have them come to the Town Hall to meet with the Selectboard.

The Huntley report on the Skyline Trail Dump Capping has been delivered by Huntley Associates, P.C.

It was reported that Laurie Bartkus from Eric Kinshurf Accounting Firm has completed the Schedule A.

Curt reported that any bids received on repairs for the Senior Center Project will be opened on March 3, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

Tamarin Had no new information to share.

It was reported that there are two potential interviews for the Town Administrator position on this coming Saturday, February 22, 2025.

A discussion was held on whether to do a partial audit of the town accounts, or a full audit. \$7,500.00 has been appropriated for a partial audit. Adelson & Company PC states a full audit would be approx. \$25,000.00. No definitive decision has been made.

A rather lengthy discussion was held, once again, on the articles for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for March 29, 2025. The Selectboard was reminded of the posting requirements for the Warrant. The main article of contention is how to pay the accounting firm for April, May, and June, as well as the completion of Schedule A. Ann Marie read from an email from the accounting firm, that money for payment can come from accounts with money still in them. This request can only happen in the last two months of the fiscal year. Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Finance Committee Chair is against this, as he feels it is "sloppy book keeping", and would rather take the \$14,000.00 from Free Cash. The breakdown of the

\$14,000.00 is as follows: April: \$3,000.00; May: \$3,000.00; June: \$3,000.00; Schedule A: \$5,000.00 with a total of \$14,000.00.

It was announced that the next Selectboard meetings are scheduled for: March 5, March 19, April 2, April 16, April 30, and May 14. The All-Boards Meeting is scheduled for March 12, the Special Town Meeting is scheduled for March 29, and the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 3.

There being no further business to come before the Selectboard, it was declared closed at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie, Member: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: _____

POSSIBLE Misuse of Appropriations HIGHWAY DEPT

1 message

Maureen Longobardi <longobardimaureen@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 9:24 PM

To: Middlefield Admin Assistant <middlefield.assistant@gmail.com>, adair@abysdistribution.com, karrietrask@gmail.com, Ann Marie Visconti <middlefield.amv@gmail.com>, Curt Robie <middlefield.cdr@gmail.com>, Tamarin Laurel-Middlefield <middlefield.tamarin@gmail.com>

-Thank you Madame Chair...I would like this to go on the RECORD plz..
I have several matters that relate to APPROPRIATION I'm sure other TAXPAYERS would be interested in as well. I am REQUIRING answers BEFORE the next STM/ATM plz.

1) 5 YEAR WARRANTY on the
2012 International Truck:

I assume the truck was purchased with a LONG term loan, since we/TAXPAYERS of the Town, just paid it off; 12years later, in the AMENDED article # 30... last ATM in May

-ATM 2013/#29:

\$6,000.00 was APPROPRIATED for a 5 YEAR WARRANTY ...SPECIFICALLY FOR the 2012 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK

- ATM 2017/#32:

the SAME \$6,000.00 was transferred from the "5 year WARRANTY Account" to the Snow Removal "EQUIPMENT" Account ??

- Which means..the \$6,000.00 was NEVER USED FOR the PURPOSE it was APPROPRIATED for!!

--How could that be???

-- There's a Snow Removal EQUIPMENT Account???

2) ATM 2021/# 25...states:

RAISE & appropriate-----\$100,000.00

TRANSFER/Free Cash-----\$50,000.00

BORROW/up to-----\$75,000.00

*****TOTAL ***** \$225,000.00

to PURCHASE and INSTALL a REPLACEMENT WESTERN STAR* CHASSIS for the 2012 International tandem axle plow truck, * including a NEW plow frame, hydraulic system and controls, along with blasting and painting the subframe on the "OLD BODY", *OR....take any action relative therelo.

**Audience Input: made this VERY clear, it is to be the more economical choice..

comments: "benefits of THIS action compared to PURCHASING A NEW TRUCK"

2022 ATM/#24:

Again asks the Town to.... TRANSFER/Free Cash-----\$25,000.00

Making the grand total NOW *** \$250,000.00. *****

to put TOWARDS the PURCHASE of a NEW 2022 WESTERN STAR* CHASSIS, approved in 2021, to "REPLACE" the 2012 International tandem plow truck, * including a new plow frame, hydraulic system and controls, along w blasting and painting the subframe on the "OLD BODY";*OR...take any other action relative thereto.

LISTEN/to the play on words **

-2021/#25 - PURCHASE & INSTALL .. A REPLACEMENT Western Star* CHASSISFOR the 2012 International tandem axle plow truck

-2022/#24 - to PUT TOWARDS the PURCHASE of a NEW **2022** Western Star * CHASSIS, approved in 2021) ...**TO REPLACE the 2012 International tandem plow truck...

In 2022/#24 if the word "Chassis" is REMOVED...Skip w WOULD have had a WHOLE NEW TRUCK! But the word IS there!!!

There was NEVER any mention of purchasing a NEW truck at any of the Selectboard meetings ALL year...Until....SB 12/1/21** Skip states: "The NEW TRUCK the TOWN ORDERED.....should get in by March"...

My Questions:

1) How did the HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT end up with a BRAND NEW, OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE 2022 *WESTERN STAR* TRUCK ? DID the TOWN EVER VOTE for it ????

2) What happened to the 2012 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK?? WHERE is it ???

3) Why was the \$6,000.00 NOT USED AS INTENDED?

4) Town JUST paid off the International off in May/2024 ...IT was NOT AT the Highway Garage , nor IN it! (Pix) on 5/4/24

4)Does the phrase ..."OR take any action relative thereto"

TRANSLATE: Do whatever we want!! ???

Comments:

1) Town got a new-Freightliner M2/ in 2019

-a new Western Star* APPARENTLY in 2022

- and now a new Freightliner M2/ 2025

(3 trucks/3 drivers...new truck every 3 years!)

2) Using the TOWN'S Chapter 90 funds delegated for ROADS ...for his yearly Wish List has to stop!

3) how does Middlefield spend** \$15,000.00 more than Chester for SNOW removal? FUEL? (Chester Budget/2022) a closer look into the DPW repairs and expenses may be necessary....

Apparently these are NOT shared w the Finance Committee or the Town.

4) ALL expenses should be ITEMIZED in the ATM reports; ...according to the Bylaws

5)* **SAVE \$\$** WE DO NOT NEED A NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR FOR 382 (?) RESIDENTS !

* WE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE ...hold ALL departments ACCOUNTABLE for their expenditures.... THE HIGHWAY DEPT. SHOULD NOT BE EXEMPT FROM THIS PROCESS!

** THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THIS IS TO ALLOW OUR ELECTED FINANCIAL GUARDIANS ACCESS TO

INFORMATION THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO ...IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE OBLIGATION TO THE TOWN RESIDENTS!

* TRANSPARENCY IS KEY TO REDEVELOPMENT AND SURVIVAL OF THIS TOWNCHANGE IS DESPERATELY

NEEDED!

Thank You for the time
