

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

December 11, 2024

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair with Members Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine in attendance. Also in attendance was Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant. Town residents in attendance were Laurie LaFreniere, Judy Hoag, Ken Murray, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Jenny Dion, Skip Savery, Doreen Black, Karri Trask, Donald Trask, Maureen Longobardi, and Alfonso Longobardi.

During public input, Ken Murray was questioning about the architectural plans for the Senior Center, which Curt Robie stated aren't available yet. Curt did report funding for the Senior Center from the Federal Government is on the docket for approval. Awaiting signature of official approval.

Ann Marie reported that the Community Compact Grant for the Transfer Station was denied. She also reported that Beverly Cooper hasn't completed the FY 24 close out.

Curt will begin looking into Bridge and Road Projects. This will include Cone Road, Clark Wright Road tributary and culvert, and the Root Road culvert. He also reported that the state has identified a deficit bridge on Town Hill Road. The state has put it at a 4, indicative of in need of repairs.

ARPA funds were voted to pay for the Town Hall Floor Replacement Project. Any funds for the floors paid out of other accounts can be a journal entry to make use of ARPA funds, according to Town Accountant. Chapter 90 funds will be used to acquire new Highway truck. Ann Marie will check with Town Counsel if the floor project money can be transferred to senior center repairs. Skip reported that Eversource is doing tree removal along River Road from the Worthington Town line, and will be going as far as the former home of Michael Hale.

The Town Administrator position was discussed with questions of what the Town needs are. Questions were raised whether it would be better to have a grant writer, however, this would not cover someone to oversee the projects of awarded grants, or do we want to go with a part time Town Administrator. It was recommended that information that is available for the Town Administrator position be available at the next selectboard meeting.

Curt reported that the Town Hall boiler was deemed unsafe at the time of the annual cleaning. Various companies were contacted, however, only one was available and willing to come to Middlefield to repair the boiler. Industrial Steel and Boiler Services and did the repairs in one day. Curt also reported that at some date, the handicap lift to access the Town Hall stage needs to be repaired.

It was reported that the Cone Road court case was thrown out by the Magistrate, and if further the plaintiffs wish to pursue, they would need to go to Superior Court. It was also reported that no contractors bid on Cone Road Engineering plan for repairs. More bids will be solicited, and an increase in funds will be added to the bid process to make it more enticing for the qualified state contractors.

It was reported that the Town tree lighting went well, and all in attendance seemed to have a good time. The Town cookie swap will be held on December 19th at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. It was also decided to close the Town Hall December 24th and 25, as well as December 31 and January 1st.

A tax Classification hearing was held at 6:30 PM at the start of the meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a single tax rate with no exemptions. The form from the Assessors was signed by the Chair of the Selectboard. The tax rate will go from \$18.22 per \$1000.00 to \$18.24 per \$1000.00. The Assessors will continue to work on corrections to the software used by the state.

Under Old Business, the Town Administrative Assistant will contact Comcast about supplying the Town Hall telephone service. The Town Hall use policy needs to be finalized. All yearly reports are to be turned into the Administrative Assistant by February 14, 2025. The Chair of the Selectboard will be holding an All-Boards Meeting on March 15, 2025.

No further business to come before the Selectboard, the meeting was closed at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane,
Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie, Member: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: _____