



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2023

The Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson and Curt Robie, Member and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member. Sean Curran, Town Administrator.

Town members present for the open session were: Adair Laurel- Cafarella, Laurie LaFreniere, Ken Murray, and Suzanne Lemieux.

The mail was reviewed.

Town Administrator Update: The Police Department received a grant for tasers and 2 laptops. The Police will have to have a Taser Use Policy and will need to go to training for the use of the tasers. The Park Grant needs one more signature (Anne Gobi) and then final submission can take place. MIIA grant will be used for vendor setting up new website, and will pursue a grant of \$~~30~~²⁷,000.00 for computer equipment. It was reported that the new Town website has 70 pages on it, and will be using a 2-step authorization for enhanced cybersecurity. Will continue to investigate the OWL to allow off site participation in town meetings by town people.

Curt Robie reported that \$2000.00 would be needed to repair the slate roof at the Senior Center. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to repair the roof. Gifford Slate Repair of Chester will be doing the work. VanZandt fixed the drains in the Town Hall Kitchen, but need to come back and place a new cap on one of the drains. Also, the heat is being looked at on 11/16/2023, as it doesn't have equal heating throughout the Town Hall.

Belle and Jays Handyman Services from Pittsfield will be replacing the stairs at the Transfer Station. Materials were quoted at \$450.00, labor not billed yet.

It was reported that the MVP grant for the entire state is \$3,000,000.00, and when awarded to those who receive part of it, would need to supply 10 percent of the awarded amount. Angela Pannicone will be invited for a sit-down meeting to assist with what the town would want with any grant money.

The RFP grant for the Transfer Station has not been submitted yet.

Service Zone Update: Crystal Kruszyna reported that the EMS Service Zone Plan is just about ready for submission. The only piece missing is a formal contract between Middlefield and Hinsdale. Once a formal contract is received, it will be reviewed by the Police and Fire Departments and then forwarded to the Selectboard for final approval. It was also reported that all First responders are CPR certified including AED training.

Thanksgiving Holiday Town Hours: A motion was made, seconded, and carried to close the Town Offices November 23-26, 2023, inclusive, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Tax Rate Classification Hearing: A rather lengthy discussion was had about the increased rate in taxes for the next two quarters. After all had a chance to raise questions and concerns, the question of split tax rate versus single rate tax was raised. Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Assessor, handed out and explained the difference in split versus single rate and pros and cons. After all discussion and presentation occurred, a motion was made seconded, and carried to go with a single tax rate. Tamarin Laurel-Paine recused herself from voting, as she is also a Selectboard member.

Post Office Issues: The Town Administrator, who is also an attorney by trade, recommended that the contract from a brokerage firm not be paid.

Old Business: It was reported that the capping of the dump on Skyline Trail is being held up again due to probate and question of extended family. Curt has a meeting about the One Stop Grant denial the Town received that was put in for the Senior Center *and Town hall*

New Business: Mark Doane, administrative assistant reported that the printer is not able to scan documents at this time, and therefore items that people want posted on the website has not been occurring. MacFarlane will be coming on Monday, 11/20/2023 to look into the issue. He also stated that with the new website, he has not received the training necessary to update the new website. He also reported that he and the Town Clerk had been researching the Town By-laws, and it was voted in 2013 to have meetings posted on the Town website, but no official statement can be found. In searching the thru the internet for Middlefield Bylaws, the Web has two sets: one from 1987, and another site has from 2023, with them stamped "draft", and assumed proposed changes listed in red.

The next Selectboard Meeting will be held on 11/29/2023, and 12/13/2023

Public Input: None

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: *Ann Marie Visconti*

Curt Robie, Member: *Curt D. Robie*

Tamarion Laurel-Paine, Member: *Tamarin Laurel-Paine*