

Town of Middlefield
2022- 09-14
Special Town Meeting
Minutes

Board of Selectmen: Chair Ann Marie Visconti, Curt Robie & Tonya Sataniello. Guest Consultant, Kenneth Walls

Meeting opened at 7:00 with 60 voters present.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to create a Town Administrator position to oversee the day-to-day operation of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Finance Committee. The Chair spoke on behalf of the Town partnering with the Town of Washington to split a full time Town administrator commencing FY24 . The Chair shared the recent history of the board and spoke of the advantages by creating this position. Ken Walls, a former Town Manager and consultant for a planning commission also stressed the importance of this position to the Town. Walls stated that the Town has an opportunity to hire an administrator for one year to see what impact it will have on the town. Walls quoted from [Part I, Title VII, Chapter 41, Section 23A](#): Town may vote by vote or bylaw to empower the Selectboard to appoint a town administrator who may be appointed for a term of 1 to 3yrs, and further clarified that the position is enabled as funded. Motion was made and seconded to vote for Article 1. Motion was made and seconded for an amendment to have Article 1 read for a term of up to one year. Discussion ensued. The Moderator asked for a stand up self hand count for the amendment to read for one year. 24 votes counted for the amendment. 33 votes were counted to have Article 1 stay as appeared on warrant. Amendment failed. All those in favor of Article 1 as presented on the warrant were asked to stand up and self count. 38 people voted in favor of Article 1 as presented. 10 people opposed. Article 1 passes as presented on the warrant.

Article 2: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to go towards the first-year salary of the Town Administrator, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Committee. Motion was made and seconded to vote on Article 2. Few questions asked. All in favor of approving Article 2 as presented on the warrant, please signify by saying Aye. Those opposed signified by saying Nay. The Ayes easily won. Article 2 passed as presented on warrant.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to raise the annual pay for the Administrative Assistant from \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year, or take any other actions relative thereto. Motion was made and seconded to vote on Article 3. No questions asked. Those in favor of Article 3, please signify by saying yes. A resounding yes was signified. Two people opposed. Article 3 passed as presented on warrant.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to cover the cost of an audit of Town financial procedures for the year ending June 30, 2022 with the firm Adelson & Company PC; or take any other action relative thereto. Motion made and seconded to vote on Article 4. The Auditors recommended a full audit one year and a smaller audit the second year. The State recommends a full audit every two years. The Town Treasurer recommended an audit of the Town Accountant, Tax Collector and Treasurer every year. Curt read the audit as to be performed. Motion made and seconded to vote on Article 4. Those in favor of Article 4 signify by saying yes. A resounding yes was signified. One person opposed. Article 4 passed as presented on warrant.

Selectboard member Curt Robie updated the residents on the progression of grants.

Announcements: Middlefield Days: October 09; Cultural Grants submission date: October 17;

Flu and Covid booster clinic: November 15 at Chester Town Hall.

Motion to dissolve at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux, Middlefield Town Clerk