

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
PO BOX 238, MIDDLEFIELD, MA 01243
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: JULY 13, 2022

PRESENT: Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, Tonya Santaniello, Member, Curt Robie, Member, Dorren Black, Temp Admin Assistant, Finance Members, Kent, Town of Washington, Jeana Briggs, Chester PTO.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:40 P.M.

JEANA BRIGGS ATTENDING FROM CHESTER PTO REGARDING PLAYGROUND FUNDING: Jeana Briggs discussed raising funds for a new playground in Chester. So far, the Chester PTO has raised \$36,000 which consists of \$10,000 from Chester, \$10,000 from Blandford, \$10,000 from Gateway School, and \$6,000 on their own. Jeana stated that the PTO is looking to see if Middlefield will donate \$10,000. Ann Marie asked if the playground would be made out of wood. Jeana stated that they are hoping to construct it prefab with ground insulation. Jeana stated they would like to start asap with a slide which would be approximately \$12,000. Ann Marie asked if Jeana researched if ARPA funds can be used. Jeana stated that she did not but Gateway Superintendent, Kristen Smitty said they could be used. Ann Marie said the ARPA money needs to be used for COVID related items. Discussed anticipated start date, Jeana said before school starts, they will pick and buy. Curt recommended going by bid laws because funds are from the government. Ann Marie said the Selectboard will get a clear answer if ARPA funds can be used and get back to her.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR 6/1/22, 6/8/22, AND 6/15/22: Ann Marie made motion to approve 6/1/22 meeting minutes, Tonya seconds, All Agree. Ann Marie made motion to approve 6/8/22 meeting minutes, Tonya seconds, All Agree. Ann Marie made motion to approve 6/15/22 meeting minutes, Tonya seconds, All Agree.

APPOINTMENTS FOR YEAR: Ann Marie put on hold, need list.

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE REGARDING FY AND CLOSE OUT OF ACCOUNTS: Curt discussed balance of Senior Center Construction, Town Accountant, Bev has figures. Bev discussed that only funds that can carry over are budget ones, all others will automatically roll. Curt stated the new Police Cruiser delayed again by the dealer. Bev will carry over. Discussed Highway Dept. new truck, the Town voted to do a loan at the June 30th town meeting, the Town paid \$25,000 this year. Bev stated that there are 2 more bills to be paid so Chapter 90 money will stay. Gateway school was 99.8 % paid, and Vocational was 73% paid, both accounts close. Basketball Court be carried over, War memorial going free cash, Ann Marie will check on emergency siren, property will be carried over, Software will be transferred from reserve fund in the amount of \$3,000.00. This year the BOH was allotted \$1200, BOH is in negative so Bev will transfer \$950. COVID grant closed, keeping ARPA, COA grant will be spent, keep historical donation.

KENT FROM TOWN OF WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR STATE GRANT: Ken discussed that the Town of Washington does not have a Town Administrator. Discussed Grant for Collins Center, state agency housed with UMass, request to do organizational structure which would be beneficial to town. Phase 1 would be surveys and interviews. Phase 2 would be the Job Description. Washington needs a partner. Discussed basic structure of position as fulltime with benefits as to attract someone with qualifications. Discussed Berkshire Regional's role in Grant would be the structure of the agreement, comparable salary recommendations and help with recruitment and contract necessary. Discussed grant is for the startup cost, salary with benefits. Ann Marie stated the Selectboard will discuss and schedule combined meeting with Washington, Berkshire Planning, and Middlefield Selectboard.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNED: Ann Marie made motion to adjourn, Tonya seconds, All Agree. Meeting adjourned 9:30 P.M.

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair



Tonya Santaniello, Member



Curt Robie, Member

