



## **Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen**

P.O. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243

Tel: 413-623-2079

Fax: 413-623-6108

[selectboard@middlefieldma.net](mailto:selectboard@middlefieldma.net)

Joint Select Board Meeting  
Between Middlefield and Washington  
Middlefield, MA 01243  
June 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM

The Joint meeting was declared open by Ann Marie Visconti, Middlefield Selectboard Chair, and Kent Lew, Washington Selectboard Chair. From Middlefield Selectboard there was also present Curt Robie and Tonya Santaniello, and from Washington Selectboard there was present John Fish and David Ellis. There were 4 residents of Middlefield present: Laura LaFreniere, Joe Kearns, Tamarin Laurel Paine, and Adair Laurel Cafarello. There were three members from Washington present, names not acquired.

The purpose of this meeting was to have a second interview with Sean Curran, a candidate for the position of Town Administrator for Middlefield and Washington. Mr. Curran was asked about his experience with Municipal Procurement, Construction Plans for Municipalities, and the procedure for soliciting and awarding of bids for town needs. He explained that he has a working knowledge of those areas, and will use his contacts in Springfield and the State as resources for further information. He was also questioned about his ability to directly supervise employees, many of whom are part time, and many who hold various positions within the towns. He has had some experience with supervising support staff in the legislative and legal arenas, and feels he can bring this experience into the Town Administrator position. It was questioned how he would handle grants for the towns, especially as both towns may be going for the same grants. This was brought up as the two towns are in two different counties. He stated that with his connections in the state that he could make this work to the advantage of both towns. He did state that he has reviewed the budgets of the towns, and that both seem to be doing well, however, he did state that Financials and Budgets are a deficit in his resume, as well as not having a Business Administration Degree. Due to these deficits, he would lean on the town, Springfield, and the State as resources to achieve optimal results.

Questions were raised about his commitment to the Town Administrator position, as he plans on continuing with being an elected official for the Springfield Board of Council, as expressed that he has announced his intentions to run again. He doesn't anticipate that being an issue, however, if it does, his priority would be the position of Town Administrator. In regards to operational needs of the towns, some areas of concern that would need to be addressed would be acquiring formal job descriptions, personnel policies, employee handbook, and general human resources. He feels this could be easily implemented by utilizing Springfield, Boston, and UMass as a starting point for these needs, and continue building from there.

Mr. Curran went on to explain that he would like to meet with town employees, that he encourages an open-door policy, and feels that being respectful and building trust with employees is paramount to achieving goals that the town puts forth.

Following this portion of the meeting, both Selectboards, thru roll call vote, agreed to adjourn to an Executive Session at 8:10 PM, and resumed the open portion of the meeting at 8:30 PM.

At this time, the Selectboards of Middlefield and Washington both made motions that were seconded, and carried to appoint Sean Curran as Town Administrator for both towns, at which time Mr. Curran was asked and gratefully accepted the position.

The Town of Washington will be responsible as lead town, and for salary concerns, will, on a quarterly basis, invoice Middlefield for their portion of Mr. Curran's salary.

The Employee Agreement was signed by Ann Marie Visconti and Kent Lew. The contract is from July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2026, however, employment may be terminated by a vote of the Selectboard. KP Law, town council, reviewed the contract prior to signing, and gave their approval.

Mr. Curran was given a tentative weekly schedule to be in the respective towns, and will be modified as needed. He is slated to begin the position on July 6, 2023.

Both selectboards closed the meeting at 8:40 PM, at which time Tonya Santaniello, retiring Middlefield Selectboard was honored for her service to the town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant