



## Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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### SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 9, 2023

The meeting was opened at 6:32, by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members of Board, present as well.

Others in attendance included Sean Curran, Town Administrator, Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant, Joseph Kearns, Ken Murray, Judy Hoag, Jenny Dion, Suzanne Lemieux, Cathy Roth, Skip Savery, Doreen Black, and one other Town Resident.

**Sign Warrants:** Warrants were signed following the business meeting

**Review Mail:** Mail was reviewed with the Town Administrative Assistant. To call to determine what the Generac Power Plan includes

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for July 19, 2023:** Signed by all three members with corrections

- 1. Town Administrator Report:** Discussed grants he is working on for the Police Department Post Training, Police Department equipment, Grants from MIIA for increased cyber security. Federal Grant from Bureau of Native Affairs to get dirt roads shovel ready for paving, but will discuss this grant with Highway Superintendent before proceeding. Also been in touch with Whalley Computer for physical portion of computer system, and Whalley informed the TA that since the library has WiFi, we should be eligible for a federal rate. Whalley also went through the Town Hall on August 9, 2023 looking at current computer equipment. Also been in touch with Abide re: asbestos removal which would cost \$110,000. He has also attended a Regional Town Manager meeting in Lenox, will be finishing his Inspector General Education, and following thru with a grant for the Town Center Project.
- 2. Cathy Roth:** Here representing the Heritage Society, and would like to donate to the Town Park, a bronze plaque that would be 18" X 24" with a picture of Olds General Store and wording of "Site of the Old's General Store 1930-1980. Money for plaque is coming from the Heritage Society, would cost \$1650.00, with a question of thickness of plaque. No definitive decision made pending further investigation. Side discussion then went to possibility of more signage for various sites in town ie: streams/brooks. There is also the possibility of a tag sale in the fall. Further discussion occurred on putting the interviews that have been done by Heritage Society and Senior Center on the library web site. Needs further discussion.

3. **Library Contract Update:** Contract is completed and will inform Treasurer of increase in hourly rate for the librarian
4. **Computer/IT update:** See Town Administrator section
5. **Storm Damage Update:** Highway superintendent gave update on road work following all the storms of this summer. Reported replacing more culverts, will look into using more funds from the WRAP grant, he has done work on Alderman Road, Clark Wright Road, and Cone Road as well as beginning black top patching. Town Administrator reported that he talked with Todd from MEMA, and raised the possibility of acquiring \$40,000 due to storm damage. Highway Department was commended for all the work they have done throughout the summer. It was also reported that Chester Municipal Electric Company is being sold to Eversource, with questions of if we can still use their equipment for installing the Town Park rails. Skip to check on that, reported it will cost \$3900.00 for rails and setting of. Then went in to discussion about upgrades to transfer station and that we have grant money to still use up and will be getting more grant money in November. Much discussion occurred re: need to have civil engineer visit transfer station to assist with plans to improve overall flow and possibility of a DPW complex.
6. **Dirt Road Study/Ken Murray update:** Still awaiting to hear back from the state. Information on the Dirt Road Study was sent in by Don Humason from Chester, and the beaver portion of this grant is also still up in the air.
7. **Grants update/future Town Grant Needs:** See Town Administrator portion. It was reported that the contractor who looked at the Senior Center is still interested in the project. Lois Leonardo Bell is reportedly wanting to look into new shelving when the floor in the Town Hall is completed. Curt also reported that Middlefield was the only town to attend Senator Marks meeting in Dalton. Senator Mark wasn't there but he's Chief of Staff was.
8. **Setting up Vendor Accounts/Post Office Account:** Will be working on setting up an account with B & G restaurant Equipment and supplies. It was determined not to open a Post Office Account at this time.
9. **Review Of Service Zone Plan:** Crystal Kruszyna was unable to attend, she will attend the August 23, 2023 meeting.
10. **Letter in support of increased PILOT for State Owned Land:** Tamarin was thanked for completing a letter to be sent to government officials. After corrections, it will be printed out, signed, and mailed out. This is to increase fairness with state payments under the PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes)
11. **TA/TAA updates:** Will be looking into developing a Department Head shared calendar that would also include various board meeting times, when various reports are due, etc.
12. **Old Business:** Ann Marie is looking to set an All Boards Meeting soon, Sean wants to schedule an ARPA meeting as well. Curt also met with Don Humason of Chester so Don would know how to vet contractors with grants and questions of co-projects between the towns such as Middlefield Road/Chester Mountain
13. **New Business not foreseen 48 hours in advance:** Finance board will now meet on Tuesdays at 5 PM.
14. **Public Input:** Steve Baker was present to request permission for camper use. He was given the correct form, will fill out, and get back to the Selectboard for approval.
15. **Adjourn:** 8:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Mark W. Doane

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: 

Curt Robie: 

Tamarin Laurel-Paine: 