



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

P.O. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243

Tel: 413-623-2079

Fax: 413-623-6108

selectboard@middlefieldma.net

SELECTBOARD MEETING

June 21, 2023

6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson, Curt Robie and Tonya Santaniello, Members

Town Residents Present: Tamarin Laurel Paine, Adair Laurel Cafarello, Joseph Kearns, Doreen Black, Suzanne Lemieux, Skip Savery, Bev Cooper (accountant), and Jack Guyette

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Selectboard.

Mail was reviewed, Warrants were signed, and Minutes of June 7, 2023 and June 14 were read and signed off on.

The public portion of the meeting was addressed first, as Jack Guyette was present with Concerns about the Police Department and response to a break in that occurred at his home on June 10, 2023. Officer Alex Seid responded to the call, and did 2-3 more follow up visits after the initial visit. Mr. Guyette was also concerned that the Middlefield Police didn't take fingerprints, however, Officer Santaniello reported that the Middlefield Police aren't trained in fingerprint acquisition. Mr. Guyette was very vocal about his concerns, and the Selectboard addressed his questions and acknowledged his concerns. The Selectboard will follow up with the Chief of Police.

It was brought up about doing a Middlefield Newsletter that would go out with the tax bills. The Administrative Assistant will follow up and try to come up with a Newsletter. He will also talk with the tax collector as to the time frame necessary to be placed in tax bills. One item to be included is a Cultural Council Survey, which is to be done each year. This will be followed up on with Eleanor Doyle.

The transfer station was discussed with the stairs to the can/bottle recycling needing to be repaired. Linda Cernik from Waste Management will be at the July 12, 2023 selectboard meeting to discuss needs of and updates for the transfer station.

A Town Center update was given, and the 2 trees have been planted, arborvitaes are to be going in soon, and the ordering of the rails for the fence will be occurring in the not-too-distant future.

It was reported that plumbing repairs need to occur at the Town Hall. Items to be addressed are: The grease trap in the kitchen needs to be cleaned, the kitchen floor drain needs to be cleaned out, the main septic line needs to be cleaned, the janitor closet sink needs to be looked at, and the flushing components of both restrooms need to be cleaned. Curt will be requesting bids and prevailing work rates for these needs. It will be addressed in the new fiscal year of 2024.

The Fire Alarm in the Town Hall has been repaired and has been updated to work off of satellites, and not thru the phone system. The repairs will be costing approx. \$800.00 Question was raised of where the funding will come from, possibly from Reserve Accounts or percentages from accounts that have surplus money in them, which is allowed in the last 2 months of the fiscal year.

The Conservation Committee needs another agent, as David Fuller is having a hard time keeping up with the demands of the position. It was reported that Becket is having the same problem, and that possibly Middlefield and Becket can share a conservation agent between the two towns. David Fuller and Carol Waag will be invited to a Select Board meeting to speak more about their needs.

The person offered the Town Administrator declined the position, and a second interview with the second-choice candidate will occur on Friday evening, June 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Middlefield Town Hall with the Washington Select Board to be in attendance as well.

The Pickleball ball clinic was a success, with 18-20 people being in attendance. It was reported that an e-mail group is already forming and that the next game is to be on Friday, June 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

WRAP funding has simplified in that the town will be fronted the money, and no longer need to submit for reimbursement, but just need to submit an on-line form as grant money is spent.

MIIA: It was reported that the town vehicles that are insured by MIIA have been updated to reflect all current used vehicles. It was also reported that there was no increase in premiums, which is difficult to understand. After the first of the new fiscal year, an agent from MIIA will be invited to speak about the premium rates.

A discussion was held regarding the Franklin County Transit Authority, so that those individuals in Middlefield who are unable to get to appointments can utilize this service. The three options were discussed: 1) volunteer drivers for van, 2) general use for various prices, and 3) demand

response where the individual makes their appointments with FCTA and are curb to curb services. Judy Hoag is town liaison for this endeavor.

Beverly Cooper, Town Accountant was present to discuss end of Fiscal Year, and would like all bills for Fiscal Year 2023 be in by July 15, 2023, with a July 19, 2023 selectboard meeting for financial meeting. This was agreed on by all present.

David Irwin did a random audit of the police and highway accounts and reported that no big issues were found, however, did state that sales tax should not be collected when purchasing items for departments. This led to a discussion about possibly the town having a credit card that would be used sparingly, and only up to a certain amount would be allowed to be placed on that account i.e. no more than \$500.00 could be charged at a time. This brought up the concern that when the bill came in which accounts would be drawn from. It was also discussed of setting up various accounts with our most used vendors so purchase orders could be utilized. Further discussion to be had.

A discussion was held about the town acquiring a textile bin. It was reported that it is an exclusive contract and isn't part of transfer station, nor can it be placed there. It was recommended to put at the Senior Center to the right of the building, and that the company would paint it a color of our choosing. It was also reported that the company would empty the bin at no cost. After the discussion, a motion was and seconded to acquire the bin, with a majority vote in the affirmative.

The Administrative Assistant was directed to contact all department heads that any purchases they wish to make for FY 2023 be completed by June 30th and that all bills be submitted by July 12 so the last warrant of FY 2023 can be processed.

There being no further business to come before the Selectboard, the meeting was declared closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti: _____

Curt Robie: _____

Tonya Santaniello: _____

