

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
PO BOX 238, MIDDLEFIELD, MA 01243
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 30, 2022

PRESENT: Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, Tonya Santaniello, Member, Curt Robie, Member Absent, Joe Kearns, Doreen Black, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Skip Savery, Carol Wagg, Ron Radwich, Jenny Dion, Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Board of Assessors Chair, Laurie Lafreniere, Assessor's Secretary, Ken Murray, Assessor Member, Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: 7:10 P.M.

Review and Sign Warrants: Warrants reviewed and signed. Payroll Warrant not available for meeting

Review Mail: None

Review & Approve meeting minutes for 11/2/2022: Tabled for Next Meeting

Tax Classification with Board of Assessors: Tamarin presented a page to the Board which explained the purpose of the meeting. This public hearing is required for the DOR to approve Middlefield's tax rate and to vote on the options for the DLS form LA-5. Tamarin stated that there needs to be a decision on a single rate or split rate, and if there will be any exemptions. Tamarin explained that the exemptions only work if you have a large range of classes in the Town's residents. Tamarin does not recommend exemptions. Discussed the recap and where it stands now is how you get the tax rate. The tax rate stands now at \$16.55. This is largely due to the Town valuation increase, which drives the tax rate down. Ann Marie made a motion to go with the Single Rate with no exemptions, Tonya seconds. All agree. Vote 2-0. Discussed Assessor's ATB case that took place. They are waiting on the court's decision.

Discuss point person for Town Center Park: Tabled for another meeting. Ann Marie requested that if anyone can think of anyone enthusiastic about be the point person let the Select Board know.

Discuss FY22 Year End: Ann Marie asked if Bev (Accountant) has anything regarding year end. Bev stated that she needs to meet with the Tax Collector to sign off on one of the forms and then she can send it to the State. Bev said that the State is so backlogged with Recap sheets that she is probably at the end of the line. The State will email the Town and Bev will let the Board know. Discussed Carryovers on Expense report and overages. Bev stated that she does not push them over until she gets the okay from the State.

Continue budget and ATM planning: Tabled for next meeting

Review Town Hall office changes and needs: Tabled for next meeting

Plan meetings & Town Hall office hours over Christmas/New Year's: Tabled for next meeting

Need for All-Boards meeting: Meetings usually take place in March or April. Date will be set at future board meeting.

Old Business: Ken Walto discussed speaking with Mr. Zoukee regarding sending him a written offer for the TA Position by Friday if he is still interested. Mr. Zoukee said he was interested and will review the paperwork and let the Boards know by Monday if he would like to move forward with the process. Mr. Zoukee asked about Retirement Benefits and Medicare. Ken stated that Mr. Zoukee has decided not to accept the offer due to a few things. First was there was no assurance of funding after the grant was done, second was making the move to MA, and the third was the Retirement benefit issue. These all weighed in on his decision. Kent discussed speaking with Mr. Zoukee that afternoon to have a more personal outreach from a Select Board member to ask some questions and maybe persuade him to reconsider. Mr. Zoukee did return his phone call this afternoon and Kent asked him if there was any room to reconsider, acknowledging it was a big decision and commitment with some risk involved. Kent said he kept the conversation very informal so he could get a sense of who we are. Discussed that the grant could possibly be stretched into the next year. Mr. Zoukee said he would think more about it and get back to Kent tomorrow or first thing Friday. Mr. Zoukee did not ask about Retirement. Discussed the employment agreement and how retirement was handled in there. Discussed what to do next if Mr. Zoukee does not reconsider. Discussed options to move to the next candidate and make offer which one board member was not in favor of, Board's could decide to request second interview. Discussed a new applicant that came in after the deadline so it was not considered but it can be reopened and forwarded to the Selection Sub Committee for review. The Board's should follow the same procedure as before. The Board's will wait until they have Mr. Zoukee decision, and if it is a no move on to the 2nd interview and the interview for the new applicant. Brief discussion on dates.

New Business: None

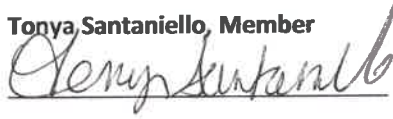
Public Input: None

MEETING ADJOURNED: Ann Marie made motion to adjourn, Tonya seconds. All Agree. Meeting Adjourned 8:51 PM.

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair



Tonya Santaniello, Member



Curt Robie, Member

NOT Present