



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectman

PO. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243

Tel: 413-623-2079

Fax: 413-623-6108

selectboard@middlefieldma.net

April 20, 2022

MINUTES

Board Members present: Chair Ann Marie Visconti, Tonya Santaniello, Curt Robie, State Rep Natalie Blais, Highway Dept Skip Savery, Town Admin Duane Pease. Finance Com: Chair Joseph Kearns, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, David DiNicola, Gita Jozsef-Harris and Steve Harris. Meeting opened at 6:30

Warrants: 3 outstanding: SB & FC approved increases to Article 5 Hosting & website 2,800; technology support 5,000, ComComExpenses decreased to 0. Article 10: SB&FC approved increase to Disposal Area of 34,000 because of upcoming contract increases; SB & FC agreed to delete Article 21 in lieu of further information, FC approved Articles 25 and 26.

Article 8 increase in operating expenses was due to an increase in dispatch software with Berkshire County, Hampshire County dispatch will be discussed further at another time. Line item 18,000 in Compensation account is needed to cover online training and patrolman's hours for several more months. According to Patrolman Santaniello a call to 911 concerning a robbery will be answered by state police as requested, otherwise will be picked up by Chief Dion. Steve will update the warrant and Gita will update the reconciliation sheet.

Town Administrator: Duane will work from 9:00 to 12:00 next week. Doreen Black will become his emergency assistant, her wages will be covered by the administrative salary account. **All Dept Spring Meeting's Agenda** was discussed for Saturday, April 30 from 8:30 to 12:00.

Emails:

Contract was signed for regional vocational education transportation for 5 years.

Root Rt Grant Program's bill of \$27,650.00 was submitted. Reimbursement was requested.

MIAA Grant Invoice for \$2,652 was received, Deadline to spend is May 12.

MVPP Grant application will be discussed more at this Friday's meeting.

A state retirement benefit trust fund needs to be established for OPBE benefits.

State Rep Natalie Blaise attended a hearing about the federal governments' proposal to close the Leeds Veteran's facility. The final decision will be forthcoming.

Funds have been increased for the pilot program. Legislation has been introduced to bring Western Mass up to par as they are disproportionately represented.

Summertime flood damage assistance was reduced. MFD received \$9,017. Winter road assistance of \$120,685 will be forthcoming to supplement Chapter 90 funds. Photographs of upcoming road damage need to be submitted to continue receiving recovery assistance.

Natalie will continue to represent us till January. Tours of farms and municipal buildings were discussed.

Article 21: \$17,1230.00 was reported as the overage to the Snow Removal Account by HDS Skip Savery. Discussion resulted in Article 21 being reinstated and concurrent numbers adjusted. FC vote in favor 4-0. The town will be asked to vote to transfer \$8,000 from the fuel account and 10,000 from free cash in Article 22.

Mosquito: Town is asked to fund state mosquito spraying. This will be on next agenda.

Center Cemetery: 150 ft of wall should be taken down, repaired and replaced. To be discussed.

Old Business:

Police Dept's fax machine's line was cut. Verizon was here last week to fix it.

Senior Center: Results of water test at Senior Center revealed low hard water, high iron sediment content. Filter installed would result in drinkable water. Estimate: \$3,900. One estimate of \$5,000 from another company has already been done. Three estimates are required.

Adjournment: Tony motioned to adjourn at 8:20. Curt 2nd. Vote 3-0. Opened a Board of Health meeting at 8:21

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne C. Lemieux

Ann Marie Biscione
Chris Santomillo
Curt A. Polio