



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectman

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SELECTBOARD MEETING

2024-07-10

Present:

Chair Ann- Marie Visconti, Members Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel Paine, Town Administrator Sean Curran, Highway Department Supervisor Skip Savery, Town Clerk Suzanne C. Lemieux

In attendance: Eversource Representative Jessie Martin, Barry & Meghan Bernard, Mitchell Main, Highway Department Supervisor Skip Savery, Sean Curran, Adair Laurel Cafarello, Doreen Black.

Public Pole Hearing:

- Public Hearing opened at 6:34
- The warrant was duly posted for a Public Hearing held this day of July 10, 2024 at 6:34 pm, pursuant to NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY DBA, EVERSOURCE ENERGY, AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. to install one (1) 40-foot pole with a push-brace pole approximately 80 feet from pole 7/41. Barry and Meghan Bernard are building a house and needs pole installed to bring power onto property of 85 Chipman Rd, Skip Savery approved the placement of the poles. Curt Robie read the order. The Selectboard signed the order for the placement of the poles and the order was certified by the Town Clerk. The Selectboard's copy will be filed. Copies were given to all concerned. Copies will be mailed out to all concerned. Public Hearing was closed.
- **Regular meeting:** Meeting began at 7:00 pm
- **Warrants & Mail:** were signed and mail was read. Comcast announced a cost increase that will be reflected in the next bill.
- **Highway Department:** Skip met with Dave Stokes, District 1 State Aide for the Chapter 90 project for Chipman Rd. to discuss the contract for upcoming work on Chipman Rd. One change reported was that the Highway Superintendent's signature is the only one required for the contract. Reimbursements were discussed.
- The rental equipment dealers will require additional insurance. Some of the rentals will include an impact crusher, excavator and a large roller to complete the roadway prep as well as tree work for the completion of one mile from the intersection. The total price is \$392,000. Sean warned about a recent cyber security breach concerning a highway department in Orange. Sean will ask Mark to post the closing of Chipman rd. 58 households on Chipman, Clark Wright and Cone will be affected. Ann Marie will put this on Code Red. Skip will supply the wordage.
The pros and cons of selling used highway trucks was discussed. Sean will check on getting rid of the green truck.
The Highway Dept. will place an ad in the Country Journal looking for summer help.

- Playground:** An unnamed resident sprayed a solution of salt and vinegar on the playground to get rid of weeds. He got an order of woodchips delivered and then spread it out in the playground. The wood chips turned out to be illegal for playground use as it could contain poison ivy and other contaminants. Skip will remove the chips in the morning, if it's raining. He will try to contact the unknown resident to ask for help in the project. The Chair asked that it be on record that she feels this is a safety issue because a child could be hurt. Tamarin asked to be on record that she heard that some people do not want to see the playground pulled down till there's something to replace it. Tamarin researched the possible new site for the playground. She has a copy of the deed that shows a part of the land was deeded to the Town as a cemetery.

Sean has applied for an \$80,000 grant for the playground. The town would be responsible of one third of the grant if we get it. Skip will assess the condition of the playground when he's removing the woodchips tomorrow.

Veteran's work off program: A motion was made and seconded to approve the writing of an article that will furnish senior citizens and veterans \$1,000 as part of a tax work off program to be taken before the town for a final vote. The Senior work off has a cap of \$500 currently. The Selectboard are recommending a middle of the road figure till they assess what the ramifications of this figure would add to the tax levy. Motion was approved.
- Abandoned Property:** The Treasurer found out that the Dowsey property will take at least 11 or 12 mths. in court before any action could be taken. The cost of demolition was discussed. The only way the Town would have a problem with abandoned property would be if during an investigation, a police officer was hurt.
- Church:** An announcement was made that services would resume at the Congregational church in a couple of weeks, on a week-end evening, presided over by Minister Susan Borsella with plans to continue on a monthly basis.
- Vacation:** Skip Savery wants to roll over his vacation time. He has at least three weeks not used. It was discussed to roll over two and get paid for one. His two employees are short a day as well. A motion was made and seconded to roll over two weeks and get paid for one. Motion passed. The Finance Com needs to use the reserve fund for Skip's vacation. Skip will get figures ready and bring it to the Finance com on Tuesday.
- Post Office:** A complaint was aired about the condition of the post office. Sean will go over to Becket post office to ask what can be done to improve it.
- Zoom:** The Zoom meeting's sound is not working. The picture is good
- Made a motion to adjourn at 8:33.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne C. Lemieux