



Town of Middlefield

Board of Selectmen

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Selectboard Minutes

January 22, 2025

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members also present. Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant was also in attendance.

Multiple Town residents were also present: Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Maureen Longobardi, Alfonso Longobardi, Doanld Trask, and Karri Trask.

Maureen Longobardi questioned if there was an oversight to not include Veteran work off along with the Senio Work off that was on the agenda. The Veteran Work off portion will have to be voted on by the Townspeople, and will be brought before a Special Town Meeting.

Ann Marie reported that Beverly Cooper says she will have Schedule A completed by January 24, 2025. Vadar will be removing the "Read Only" license, so the Town will be paying less next year and will prorate some of this year. Free Cash of \$388,359.00 was certified. KP Law will be discussed under new business.

Tamarin reported she will not be in attendance on January 29, 2025 and is hoping a Zoom call can be arranged. To this, Donald Trask offered a gift of a 40-inch TV for use with the Zoom.

Curt reported that the Superintendent of Schools, Kristen Smidy will sit on the Capital Planning Committee, the Community Member at Large for the Capital Committee is posted on the Town Website, the contract with Gill Engineering for the Cone Road culvert has been signed. Curt also reported that the \$100,000.00 grant for the Senior Center was signed, and Congressman Neal's Office reported that all appropriation bills of the Federal Government are on hold until approx.. March 1. Brett Thibault has sent revised plans for the Senior Center repairs, and are awaiting wage rates and state certified contractors. Bridges on Town Hill Road are in poor shape with bridge listed as M9002 at a rating of 4. It was reported that the Mass DOT is going to be working on the grant to get the funds to repair that bridge. Bridges M9003 and M9004, also on Town Hill Road might be able to be included, and letters requesting these bridges be looked at by Mass DOT, was encouraged. Cintas contract for rugs at the Town Hall and Senior Center has

been signed, with the program to begin in 1 to 2 weeks. The cost is approx.. \$600.00 until the end of June.

Ann Marie wants to schedule a Special Town Meeting and an All-Boards Meeting. For the Special Town Meeting, Warrant Articles to be addressed are: Senior and Veteran's Tax Work-off Program, Correcting Articles concerning floor removal at the Town Hall, Also replacing ARPA funds, and other items not clearly stated. Finance Board says some articles for Highway department need to be addresses for repairs to the grader for \$20,000.00, a Grapple for \$24,000.00, and to not borrowing funds to pay for the new highway truck. Also may need to address Accountant allocation. When was all said and done, a minimum of 7 articles will be on the Special Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

The All-Boards Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. March 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Part of that meeting will be to discuss the potential Tax Work-off programs, to see what type of positions would be available.

Curt handed out the Information Guideline's from DLS in regards to the Senior and Veteran Work-off program, and the administration of that program. Questions were raised to see if this should be put off to the Annual Town Meeting, but it was felt that all the details didn't need to be determined prior to the Town Meeting as to whether the Work-off program will be accepted by the town people.

Discussion on the ARPA funds took place and it was stated that all but \$235.75 dollars for the Town Hall Floor Project was paid by ARPA. \$208,573.25 is left in the Floor Account, and talked about putting that into the Stabilization Account. Kinsharf Accounting later reported that the Floor Account only has \$124,803.27. Ann Marie also stated that KP Law said any extra money should be placed in Free Cash for transparency.

Tamarin will be attending a Zoom meeting on January 23, 2025 to find out more information on the types of grants available thru the ADA. Ann Marie gave Tamarin a copy of the current estimate we have received for a new ramp at the Town Hall which is for \$125,600.00. This figure was presented in 2022. Tamarin stated she doesn't know how large a grant amount is from the ADA, but that on the Mass.gov/MOD website, ramps were funded under \$10,000.00.

The Town Administrator add, which Tamarin wrote, with suggestions from the Berkshire Municipal Managers Association, was approved. Postings will be in the Country Journal on January 23 and January 30, 2025 editions. It will also be placed on the Middlefield Website.

Under old business, Curt was wondering if we had the final Certificate on the Skyline Trail Dump Closure. After much discussion, Huntley Associates still needs to supply the Town with their final report, so the State can issue the Certificate. The State is aware of the issue, however, can still fine the Town. Huntley Associates also needs to supply a copy of the water testing on the site. Huntley has been contacted about the getting the Town the final report as well as a copy of the water test. Curt reported that the Lady's room toilet has been repaired. Mark reported he

has a zoom call with Comcast on Friday, the 24th for supplying proposals to update the phone system at the Town Hall.

No new business was brought before the Selectboard.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane,
Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair

Curt Robie, Member

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member