



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 MINUTES

November 03, 2023

The Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson and Curt Robie, Member and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member. ~~Sean Cullen~~, Town Administrator.

Town members present for the open session were: Adair Laurel- Cafarella, Doreen Black, Jane Craker.

Eric Weiss : PVPC/Capital Improvement.

Ira Brynski: Capital Planning Committee

Eric & Ira both shared their experience with the Board. There is \$5,000 in the kitty until January 1, for PVPC to start putting together a Capital Plan for the Town. Eric suggested applying for a new grant to continue with the Plan. All of their positions are grant funded, no matching funds are required. The Selectboard spoke of their plans for Middlefield and their disappointment in not getting grants. PVPC will help Middlefield when they apply for the One Stop program. He will also find where Middlefield stands currently in their grant pursuits.

Eric will try to attend the 17th meeting with Ann Gobi and the November 18 Special Town Meeting.

William Rodgers/Ryan Rd:

Bill Rodgers bought a land-locked lot on Ryan Rd. Town Meeting voted to discontinue Ryan Rd from the bridge to Washington in 1984. Landlocked property usually takes forever to gain any kind of right of way. Bill was encouraged to talk to other landowners on Ryan Road about having them pitch in to improve conditions on that road.

Historical Committee:

Howard Knickerbocker attended via speaker phone, hearing was difficult. Howard has been organizing files to be digitized. He has not been throwing out anything. The keys are mostly accounted for. Doreen will set up a meeting to discuss protocol.

The museum needed a concierge to open up for Middlefield days, but didn't have time to do that, so Doreen opened it herself on Middlefield days with the help of Jane Craker who cleaned before opening. It was very successful with up to 30 visitors.

Middlefield Green Community Representatives:

(Cullen)
Sean Cullen appointed Tamarin as the Green Community Representative. She needs to prepare a report to submit an application for a grant.

Post Office Issues:

Sean will try to make arrangements with the Post Office to get a Postal Rep here to discuss the upkeep of the trailer and staff.

Set Date for Special Town Meeting:

Finance Committee told residents at town meeting that their taxes would go up \$500 if they voted for all the increases on the town warrant. Town Accountant Bev Cooper attended via speaker phone. Discussed different ways to bring the upcoming tax rate down. The free cash should be certified by the 15th of November.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to amend Article 30 passed on the 2024 Annual Town warrant authorizing a \$57,010.00 payment on the 2012 International Tandem Axle Truck to be reimbursed out of the FY 2024 capital stabilization account and then to be reimbursed out of the FY 2024 free cash balance. All were in favor of passing Article One.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to take \$61,719.00 out of school stabilization funds to offset school expenses for FY2024. Motion passed 2 to 1 for Article 2.

A motion was made and seconded to set the town meeting for November 18 at 10:00 am. All were in favor.

New Business:

Road Closings: A motion was made and seconded to post the road closings for winter maintenance from Arthur Pease from #63 to the Peru Town Line, Chipman Rd from #63 to the Worthington town line, Clark Wright Rd from #40 to #69 at Chipman rd intersection, Cone Rd from #83 to #111 and West Hill Rd from #39 to #68. All were in favor.

Planning Board:

Public Hearing is Dec 16 to vote on bylaws.

Made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:26. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:



Curt Robie, Member: Curt D. Robie

Tamara Laurel-Paine, Member: Tamara Laurel Paine