

# Selectboard Minutes

March 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order 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 present.

Town residents present were Louise Harlow, Kenneth Murray, Donald Trask, Karri Trask, Doreen Black, Maureen Longobardi, Alfonso Longobardi, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Logan Judge, Daniel Bergeron, Sharon Daldoss-Bergeron, Skip Savery, and Police Chief Jenny Dion.

During public input Louise Harlow passed out a letter about Middlefield History and how the Senior Center has played a part in this history.

Mark Doane and Curt Robie presented about the phone meeting they had with Acada phone systems. Tamarin requested to review the proposals. No decision has been made. The proposal from Comcast for pricing expired on March 21, 2025.

Curt sat in on interviews for a replacement for Stephanie Fisk, who is retiring from the Superintendent's office at Gateway. He will also be sitting on the committee to hire an HR individual for Gateway. The well pump at the Town Hall has been replaced, and the water test came back with "OK" to use. Van Zandt will be contacted to finish the flushometer work in the men's restroom. Curt has also been in contact with the contractor who will be doing the Senior Center repairs to finalize all aspects of the contract. Curt also reported that Skip Savery and David Stokes went on the town roads to look at grant possibilities, with Town Hill identified. David does not want the Town to apply for grants for bridge repairs. The state will pursue federal dollars for those repairs.

Tamarin continues to work on the Green Community report. She also reported that Steven Mack will be presenting about Climate and Social Resiliency to the town on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

Ann Marie spoke with Tom Speight that the Town is still awaiting the final permit on the Skyline Trail Dump Capping, and are awaiting a determination on the Town request for doing the water testing every 2 years. Ann reported that Linda Cernik attended a meeting about paper compactors, and they only handle cardboard.

An Open Meeting Law complaint from Maureen and Alfonso Longobardi, dated November 19, 2024 was discussed by the Board. The complaint was read, along with a response from Mark Stinson from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Discussion then began on whether or not to have legal counsel intervene. As much discussion was taking place within the audience, the police chief asked the audience to quiet down. The Police Chief felt Alfonso Longobardi was making comments after this warning to the audience, at which time, the Police Chief asked him to stop, or he would be asked to leave the meeting. A heated back and forth between Mr. Longobardi and the Police Chief ensued, and the Police Chief escorted Mr. Longobardi out of the meeting. Further information of this incidence was provided by Tamarin Laurel-Paine, who felt that it was a pre-meditated take-down by the Chair of the

~~Selectboard and the Police Chief, by representing Mr. Longobardi as "making comments from the audience" before the police chief confronted him. Tamarin's impression was Mr. Longobardi was telling the truth about not having made noise, when he replied to the Police Chief's accusation, which set in motion the back and forth. Tamarin also reports that she was talking with the Selectboard, and not observing the audience, however, checked with audience members later. The audience she asked said the noise was coming from the audience, but not Mr. Longobardi. The audience stated that Mr. Longobardi only started speaking in reply to the Police Chief.~~ *and*  
Ann Marie Visconti moved to adjourn the meeting at that point, however, there was no second and no vote to close the meeting. During the discussion preceding this encounter, Tamarin voiced her concern that we should be addressing resident's concerns versus going to legal counsel. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by majority to send the complaint to KP Law, Town Counsel. Ann Marie in favor, Curt in favor, Tamarin abstained from the vote. After the vote, Curt did feel we should also be looking at resident's concerns as part of complaints.

The proposed Town Administrator contract was then reviewed and modified by the Selectboard, with Tamarin and Mark to type up the final draft on March 21, 2025, then send to all Selectboard members for approval prior to sending to Town Counsel for approval.

The Highway Superintendent responded to the complaint from the Longobardi's on a previously brought up issue on the Highway trucks. He stated that every truck he has purchased for the Town has followed all the appropriate channels required, and feels that the Longobardi's are bordering on slander towards him. Skip also discussed the issues with Johnny Cake Hill with the Bergeron's. He reported that driveway culverts need to be put in, however, that is a home owners' responsibility. Ann Marie recommended that Skip, Mr. Bergeron, and his neighbor meet and look at the condition of Johnny Cake Hill that is impacting Mr. Bergeron.

The Selectboard and Finance Committee finalized the proposed budget, with the exception of insurances, as the town is awaiting a figure from MIIA, and the need to finalize a proposed increase to the Treasurer's salary or do a line item for a one time "bonus" for all the work she did during the turn over to a new accounting firm.

Under new business, Curt reported that the Ad Hoc Capital Planning first meeting went well, and thanked Donald Trask for the work he did on developing a spreadsheet for capital needs. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends creating three new stabilization accounts, via the ATM. Those accounts would be for the Highway Department, Fire Department, and Police Department. A by-law will also be necessary to establish a permanent Capital Planning Committee.

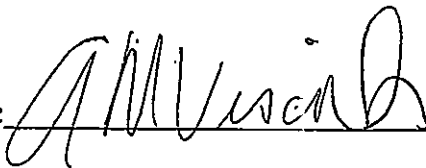
The Selectboard appointed Logan Judge to the Conservation Committee for the remainder of the vacant term.

There being no further business to come before the Selectboard, it was closed at 9:00 PM.

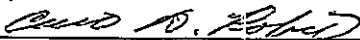
Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Marie Visconti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Curt Robie, Member:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Robie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "R".

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: