

Selectboard minutes
March 10, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti; Duane Pease, Town Administrator
Absent: Judith Hoag, Chair

Attending via Zoom: Sarah Foley, School Committee member; Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$20,615.88; Expenses: \$20,649.69

Minutes approved on motion by Tonya, Ann Mari 2nd; vote 2-0.

Mail reviewed: Free Cash certified in amount of \$165,097

Sarah met with Board to discuss next year's budget for the Gateway Regional School District. She is the only representative for Middlefield although 2 are allowed. She explained the school committee is recommending the alternative budget which would have to be approved by the six towns, this budget would result in an increase of 1.78% for the town over last year's budget. This would result in a cost of \$503,566. The statutory budget would result in a decrease of over \$100,000 to Middlefield and lower our share to \$387,592. There was continued discussion on the budget and towns effected; Blandford and Middlefield are the only towns that would see a decrease if the statutory method was used. This will be discussed further by the board prior to finalizing the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Sarah was thanked for her dedication and service to the town.

There was brief discussion regarding the position of Health Agent now that Jackie Duda has resigned. It was agreed to hire Ed Fahey from Berkshire Planning in the interim to complete the fiscal year. A contract will be sent and reviewed at the next selectboard meeting.

Suzanne requested the board approve dates for the caucus, ATM and voting. The caucus would be on May 19th from 4-8pm and held in the Town Hall auditorium; voting would be on June 26th from 8:00am-1:00pm and the ATM at 2pm and held at the Fair Grounds pending approval by the Fair. These dates and times were approved on a motion by Ann Marie; Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Snow budget is being overspent and additional monies needed to fund it through the season. Ann Marie motioned to increase by \$10,000, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Curt Robie presented an article to be placed on the ATM warrant requesting funding so the basketball court may be resurfaced.

Ann Marie wanted to know status of the Town Center Park; this will have to wait until Judy returns as she is involved with that committee.

Ann Marie felt since the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. have received the COVID vaccines it may be appropriate to have First Responder and CPR classes as these were interrupted by the COVID shut down last year. She believes Steve Baker may be willing to run these classes.

Tonya motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted by:

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello