



## Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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### SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2023

The meeting was opened at 6:34 PM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members. Town Residents present were Adair Laurel-Cafarella.

The Warrants were signed, the mail reviewed, and the Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of September 20, 2023 were approved and signed.

**Kristen Smidy, GRSD Superintendent:** Ms. Smidy gave an update on projects occurring in the school system. She spoke about a BARR grant the school district is applying for in the amount of \$100,000.00 which is to be used as necessary for engaging every learner. She also spoke about other activities of inclusive sports programs, both positions slated for Middlefield on the School Committee are filled, and will be looking at further needs of the physical condition of schools as well as Littleville Elementary playground equipment. Contract talks are also slated for cafeteria workers and para-professionals. She also reported that the Town Agreement with the District is to be renewed and will have to reflect DESE requirements.

**Town Administrator Report:** Sean Curran reported he represented Middlefield at a regional meeting in Pittsfield concerning needs of smaller rural areas especially in areas concerning procurement procedures and simplifying Grant procedures for rural areas. He reported that Town fire extinguishers were inspected, and in some cases replaced, on October 3 and will be inspected again on October 2024. The Transfer Station is to be inspected by Linda Cernak on October 5, 2023. Steps at the Transfer Station are to be repaired soon. The new computer for the Town Administrator will be delivered this week and be set up for use. Sean will also be attending a Town Managers meeting in Lenox on October 5.

**Report on Dump Capping/Permit:** Town Counsel has been informed of STM article concerning the old dump on Skyline Trail passed by town vote. Suzanne Lemieux has provided certified minutes, with town seal, to Curt who sent to Town Counsel. The plans will be filed in probate court, and then be advised of next steps.

**Transfer Station Update/\$4200.00 Grant:** Signed paperwork has been emailed to Mass DPW and then funds from Grant in amount of \$4200.00 will be sent to town. Schaffer and Huntley, civil engineers, have

looked at Transfer Station for potential to improve site, and possibly incorporate a DPW structure. Awaiting results of their report.

**Town Hall Kitchen updates/Drains:** Necessary items recommended for Kitchen have been obtained and will be installed. Still having a difficult time locating a plumber for looking at drains.

**Update on Special Town Meeting:** Both articles on the Warrant passed. The Town Park is to be designated for park and recreation use. There will be a work bee at the Town Park on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

**Update on All Boards Meeting:** Sean Curran gave kudos to the library for acquiring the LIBBY system, which allows Library patrons to use personal devices for uploading reading material. Ron Radwicz talked at the All Boards Meeting about needs of Fire Department. This led to a discussion at the Selectboard meeting about the Fire Siren not working, however, the fire department does have pagers. It was reported that it would cost approx. \$20,000.00 to repair siren. The TA will talk with the Fire Chief and Police Chief to see if anything should be pursued in terms of grants for a warning system.

**Update on Flu Clinic:** 28 people registered, however, 38 people received the flu vaccine.

**Capital Plan and Projects:** A rather lengthy discussion occurred concerning long range plan for the Town. Many topics were discussed with primary focus on housing of the new police cruiser. It was also suggested to talk with Ken Cormier (sp) and/or his office to assist with capital planning and zoning by-law updates.

**Pre-Meeting Anne Gobi visit on November 17, 2023:** It was determined a pre-meeting was not necessary. The meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> should be publicized in the Berkshire Eagle and the Country Journal. The Town Administrator will also put it out to area towns. This meeting will be open to the town's people. It will be held at the Middlefield Town Hall.

**Handyman Position:** Currently there are no applicants. Curt Robie will talk to the handyman group who have a place behind Carm's Restaurant in Chester. Possibly they might be interested.

**Police Department opening/posting:** It was felt the Town should place an ad in the Country Journal looking for qualified applicant for the open Officer position on the Police Department. It would be a benefit if applicants had already been Bridge certified. The Administrative Assistant will work with the police chief to develop a posting.

**Old Business:** The Dirt Road Grant continues to be worked on with focus on beaver control. The HMP/MVP preliminary meeting will be on November 15, with possibility of a Zoom call with Angela Panaccione from PVPC, on that date.

**New Business:** 911 signs were discussed, and ways to let town residents know how to get one. No definitive decisions were made. Curt Robie has called the State to inquire if the Senior Center can be designated a historical building. It was recommended to see if the sign above the highway department can be repaired/replaced. A lengthy discussion was also held about the possibility of forming an area Community Preservation Account. Further discussion would be necessary.

**Public Input:** None

There be no further business to come before the Selectboard, it was declared closed at 9:17 PM.

Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson: Ann Marie Visconti

Curt Robie, Member: Curt D. Robie

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, member: Tamarin Laurel-Paine