

Middlefield Board of Selectmen
January 8, 2018
Regular Meeting
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Present is Ed Bailey, Bob Yamartino and Dave Burgess.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Bob Yamartino to approve the amended agenda as follows:

Move item 15 to after item 4. And add to Item 15.c:

ii. Jay Brown - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Member (1/3) to replace expired term of Robert Johnson.

iii. Eric Ekblade - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Member (1/3) to replace expired term of Brooke Carlson.

Add after Item 7 to authorize First Selectman to request tax refunds.

This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

4. Public Comment

Dave Burgess explained that Cheryl Pizzo brought up the concern of the ditch that runs parallel to Long Hill Road approximately 3 to 4 years ago. Mr. Burgess noted that the ditch has still been uncorrected and there has continued to be some accidents in the area. Mr. Burgess stated that it is a public safety hazard and he requested that the Board of Selectmen fix the problem. Mr. Bailey explained that they had a rough engineering design created and they hope to have the area fixed by the town crew. Mr. Bailey stated that they will look into the process and figure out if the town crew can fix the issue or if they need to bring in an outside contractor. Mr. Bailey anticipates having the process completed by the end of this summer.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen, December 4th, 2017 Meeting

A motion was made by Bob Yamartino to approve the minutes of the December 4th, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting. This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

- The Board of Selectmen agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, January 22nd, 2018 and will not have a meeting on the 23rd.

- Ed Bailey explained that the Director of Health was relieved of his position as of December 31st, 2017. Mr. Bailey noted that he is looking into joining a Health District. Mr. Bailey explained that the Plainville /Southington Health District Board has given permission to their Executive Director to be Middlefield's acting Director of Health until June 30th, 2018. Mr. Bailey stated that the Board of Selectmen will have from now until June 30th to discuss joining the Plainville/Southington Health District. The District will provide Middlefield with the ten essential services of a Health District. Mr. Bailey stated that he will go over this topic further at a future date.

6. Appointments

A motion was made by Ed Bailey to approve the following Appointments:

a. Director of Health - Mr. Shane Lockwood, MS, Plainville-Southington Health District (expiring June 30th 2018)

b. Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agency

i. Rebecca Adams - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - 2/3

ii. Patrick John Manning - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Alternate

c. Planning and Zoning Commission

i. Jan Wojas - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Alternate

ii. Jay Brown - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Member (1/3) to replace expired term of Robert Johnson.

iii. Eric Ekblade - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2020 - Member (1/3) to replace expired term of Brooke Carlson.

This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

7. Update from Board of Education member Bob Yamartino

Bob Yamartino explained that the Board of Education is working through the details of the policy for the Finance Committee. The ERC met last Wednesday and they agreed on the following:

- Board members will be voting members
- There will be two appointees by town
- There will be up to four appointees from the Board of Education
- The Chair will be voted on by the membership
- The school Business Director will be a standing member of the committee

Bob Yamartino explained that it would require a Referendum vote in order to appoint a committee under the by laws of the school district. The committee will be a temporary committee through June.

8. Set date for Town Meeting to elect two members to the newly formed Regional School District 13 Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Bob Yamartino to set the date, time and place for the purpose of a Public Hearing followed by a Town Meeting to appoint two members to the Regional School District 13 Finance Committee.

Date: February 12th, 2018

Time: 7 PM

Place: Community Center

Term of Office: 1. Temp. Finance Committee until June 30, 2018

2. Permanent Standing Committee expiring June 30, 2020

This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

9. Tax Refund

A motion was made by Bob Yamartino to allow Edward P. Bailey, First Selectman to be the taxpayer making refund requests, per State Statue 12-129. A taxpayer must make an application in writing for any refunds of taxes, for all refunds created on the 2016 Grand List by the lowering of the Mill Rate on the second installment. This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

10. Town and State Budget Update - deficit mitigation plan

Ed Bailey stated that the State is still under a lot of budgetary constraints. Mr. Bailey explained that the budget passed by the State at the end of October left the Town of Middlefield with a \$172,000 ECS Funding cut and they need to make up the difference. Mr. Bailey is hoping Regional District 13 will absorb the cut. Mr. Yamartino suggested this matter be discussed by the Finance Committee. Mr. Bailey explained that the \$172,000 was factored into the revenue but there is wording in the Statue that the Board of Education should absorb the cost. Mr. Bailey stated that the wording is unclear and does not necessarily apply to Regional School Districts.

11. Valley Shore Emergency Communications Request for Bonding

Ed Bailey explained that all the towns that belong to Valley Shore signed on for an ICE grant two years ago to fund the \$600,000 worth of communication equipment requested by Valley Shore. The ICE grants are limited to \$200,000 per year. Mr. Bailey explained that they planned on applying 3 years in a row, but after receiving the first \$200,000 grant, the ICE grants were terminated. The entire project is short by \$400,000. Mr. Bailey explained that they are looking for a different form of funding and could possibly be facing a budget problem if they cannot come up with the funding. Dave Burgess requested more information regarding specific details about the communication equipment and what it is being used for. Members agreed to discuss the topic in more detail at a future date.

12. Senior Bus Update

Ed Bailey explained that the senior bus is up and running and all systems are going back to normal. Mr. Bailey explained that they are paying the driver per hour rather than per trip and the town will be saving money.

13. Housing Rehab Program - Brochure

Ed Bailey explained that they have money for the program and no one has used it in approximately four to five years.

14. Middlesex County Revitalization Committee - Brochure

Ed Bailey explained that he is on the board of the commission and money is available. The commission provides low interest loans and/or grants to small businesses. There are two companies in Middlefield that have benefited from a loan. The State Department of Economic

Development has programs to help businesses and Middlefield is part of one of the few counties in the state that has its own program.

15. Purchasing Policy - Draft

Ed Bailey stated that he has been working on a new purchasing policy. Mr. Bailey explained that the new policy is much more detailed than the old policy because the town needs a policy that conforms with current federal standards. Mr. Bailey provided the board members with a copy of the new purchasing policy. The members agreed to look over the policy and discuss it at a future date.

16. Resolution of appreciation for Dr. Matt Huddleston, Health Director

A motion was made to table the Resolution to the next meeting. This motion was seconded and approved by all voting members.

17. Adjourn

A motion was made by Bob Yamartino to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. This motion was seconded by Dave Burgess and approved by all voting members.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Leanne M. Henry