

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the November 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Ed Bailey, Bob Yamartino and Dave Burgess were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings

- A. August 21, 2018 Regular Meeting
- B. September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting
- C. October 1, 2018 Regular Meeting

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes from August 21, September 4 and October 1, 2018, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Health District - Update

Ed Bailey reported that the new target date for the Health District is January 1, 2019. The Health District approved Middlefield joining the district at their last meeting. They will hopefully start working with Lee Vito in the beginning of December.

Update from Board of Education member Bob Yamartino regarding Board of Education

Bob Yamartino reported that the Utilization committee is moving forward, looking at the buildings, financing and building consolidations. Most of the decisions are pending the referendum in Durham on the acquisition of Korn School. Ed Bailey asked what Mr. Yamartino felt the school district will do if the referendum fails. Mr. Yamartino stated that the Board of Education has already identified a shortfall in capital planning and there would also be capital needed to renovate any remaining schools. If Korn School remains with the district, the Board of Education will need to make a decision on whether to raze the building or seek alternative uses. The property is not clearly defined into freestanding lots and there will also be zoning issues, which may make razing the building the best option.

There was then some discussion about program choices in the district and Mr. Yamartino also reported that the SBAC scores were received and both elementary schools are Schools of Distinction in the state. One school outperformed the other in math, but the other outperformed in verbal. Mr. Yamartino felt it would be interesting to bring the two together.

Mr. Yamartino also commented that the district is currently operating five school buildings in a district that could easily operate in three schools on one campus, however that would carry a price tag of \$30 to \$50 million. Dave Burgess stated that he has heard people are unhappy that there would be no schools in Middlefield. Mr. Yamartino summarized that the district operates two schools in Middlefield and three in Durham, but the proposal on the table is to close John Lyman School in Middlefield. One of the issues with John Lyman is the lack of capital reserves available for the work that needs to be done there (\$4 million next year).

Bob Yamartino also reviewed that the Board of Education has been working much more closely with the two towns and their Boards of Finance as well as establishing an independent finance committee. Ed Bailey stated that the Board of Education is governed by the state and the Council of Small Towns has created a regional school district working group which has come up with a legislative proposal. Mr. Bailey also explained that DMIAAB is a 50/50 proposition that was agreed to by both towns and maybe that's what should be done with regional school districts, but that would take time. Mr. Yamartino does feel that the district is moving in the right direction from a communications standpoint and a fiscal responsibility standpoint and is encouraging more community involvement.

Mr. Yamartino also stated that he has worked hard on getting the Board of Education to accept the help of the community by having townspeople serve on the various subcommittees, though they will not have voting rights. He did explain that subcommittees very rarely vote on most issues.

Michael Crocco stated that his neighbor felt that she hadn't received enough information as she just moved here and she was concerned about the busing. Bob Yamartino explained that the

Board of Education has held Utilization committee meetings at least monthly and he would take exception to people saying that there hasn't been communication.

Ed Bailey stated that there will be 100 students enrolling in first grade and Middlefield's share went down. Dave Burgess felt that demographics always change and you never know when enrollment will go back up. There was then discussion on the various reasons for closing or not closing a school. Mr. Yamartino also explained that District 13 is one of the most expensive districts in the state, but the test scores are not in the top third. Mr. Burgess questioned the reliability of the testing.

Meriden Road (Route 66) Repaving Program - Update

Ed Bailey reported that the road is paved and there is now a little different pattern in the road striping. One issue with the new pavement is that everyone is speeding. The trooper recently spent two hours on Route 66 and gave out eight speeding tickets.

SOLARIZE Connecticut Program Update - Final Summary - September 20th

Ed Bailey reported that close to 30 contracts have been signed. Dave Burgess stated that his solar panels have been installed and he is just waiting for the electric company to turn it on. Mr. Bailey also commented that Middlefield has exceeded every other participant in the program.

Bob Yamartino asked if the Board of Selectmen would draft a letter to the state legislators (after tomorrow's election) asking them to look at the energy plan that was just signed by the Governor and that they revert to the net metering proposal. The new plan instructs the DPUC to come up with new pricing for residential solar installations that would not allow for net metering. Mr. Yamartino wondered if the grandfathered homes would still be eligible for net metering if the houses are sold. They also went on to discuss the proposals for selling the electricity back to the utility companies. Mr. Yamartino has already spoken with Len Fasano about this issue. Dave Burgess hoped that leaders from other towns would write to the legislators also.

Resolution to adopt a resolution by the Old Indian Trail Public Water System to file an application and execute a loan agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Health - Drinking Water Section for the installation of an emergency generator

Ed Bailey reviewed that the town operates the Old Indian Trail Public Water System and they need to install an emergency generator. They will obtain a loan from the Department of Public Health, part of which will revert to a grant. The cost of the generator will not exceed \$19,230 and any costs are shared with Durham. Mr. Bailey stated that capital has been set aside in the budget for this expense.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by David Burgess, to adopt a resolution to approve the Old Indian Trail Public Water System to file an application and execute a loan agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health - Drinking Water Section for the installation of an emergency generator not to exceed \$19,230. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments

- a. Planning and Zoning Commission
 - I. Michael Crocco - Term 01/01/2017 to 12/31/2019 (Alt)
- b. Zoning Board of Appeals
 - I. David Glueck - Term 05/01/2018 to 04/30/2023 (3/3)
 - ii. Peter Neidhardt - Term 05/01/2017 to 04/30/2022 (Alt)
 - iii. Correction to Previous Appointment of June 19, 2018
 - 1. Michael Skelps - Term 05/01/2017 to 04/30/2022 (Alt - correction to term)

Michael Crocco stated that he served on the Planning and Zoning Commission in Hamden for 13 years and dealt with a lot of economic development. He described some of the issues that he dealt with on the commission in Hamden. Ed Bailey explained that Mr. Crocco has lived in town for four years.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to approve the appointments as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Burgess asked for an updated list of commission members, once it has been completed and Ed Bailey agreed to get that out to him.

Selectman's Report

Ed Bailey reported that there have been a lot of IT issues with the Connecticut Voter Registration system again this year. A considerable amount of time and energy was spent dealing with this issue and the state finally sent Frontier out last Wednesday, with no resolution. The State uses an obsolete modem and the manufacturer stopped supporting it in 2011. The State decided to install virtual personal networks (VPNs) and that was also a problem. Mr. Bailey spoke to the Assistant Secretary of State in Charge of Elections and felt that the State needed to send someone to set it up. The town's IT people were in today to assist and everything is now working. Mr. Bailey stated that he was going to compile all of the hours and the invoice from TAB and send it to the State. He explained that voter registration needs to be done on a secure system, but the election results do not. The State will be redoing the system using fiber optics, but that could take nine months.

Mr. Bailey also explained that the street light program is moving along. He hopes to see a contract proposal in about a month.

Ed Bailey also reported that the Lake Beseck Environment Committee put together a Lake Smart home program and recently awarded plaques to Michael Crocco and John Lindner. Mr. Crocco explained that he and Mr. Lindner worked together to put install two 60-gallon tanks underground with grills in the grass. The Lake Smart program hopes to encourage reducing the amount of run-off that goes into the lake.

Ed Bailey also reported that he met with representatives from the senior class at Cuginchaug. They are looking for projects to do on senior day in May. Mr. Bailey asked for any ideas for projects around town. Bob Yamartino suggested having them weed the community garden.

Mr. Bailey also stated that he attended the CCM conference last week

Adjournment

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
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