

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Ed Bailey, Dave Burgess and Bob Yamartino were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Ed Bailey asked to add item 8B, Resolution Concerning Connecticut Department of Emergency Services.

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

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings

A. January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting dated January 22, 2019, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

B. February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting dated February 19, 2019, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

C. March 5, 2019 Special Meeting

Ed Bailey explained that this was a special joint meeting and he assumed that DMIAAB produced minutes from that meeting.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, that no acquired is required for the minutes of the Board of Selectmen special meeting held on March 5, 2019 which was called, noticed and documented by DMIAAB. Motion carried unanimously.

D. March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting dated March 19, 2019, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

FY20 Budget - Board of Finance Proposal

Ed Bailey provided the proposed Board of Finance budget and noted that the revised budget numbers have decreased the budget.

Mr. Bailey reviewed Jim Irish's Powerpoint presentation. He explained that tax collection is over 100 percent because the Town does not budget the supplemental motor vehicle tax. The school district budget is down \$535,000 and the main reason for that is a change in the medical insurance provider. That change in provider produced a total of over \$800,000 for the district and both towns combined. Bob Yamartino also mentioned that the school district is absorbing the TRB payments and the ECS.

Mr. Bailey added that salary increases are included in the budget and the Grand List was up \$10 million. He distributed a list of the top 10 taxpayers in town. Connecticut Light & Power went from \$9 million to \$18 million in one year and that's why the taxes will be going down. The mill rate will be decreasing 2.02 mills.

Looking at expenses from FY19 to FY20, there is a \$115,000 increase, with \$107,000 of that being added to capital. Total town expenditures are down overall by \$420,000. Revenue is up \$100,000 primarily from the sale of some property and the total amount needed to be collected by taxation is reduced by \$520,000, resulting in a mill rate reduction of 2.02.

Mr. Bailey reviewed the breakout of where the money goes, showing human resources as the largest number. There is an increase for the Town Planner position and facilities manager. There is also an increase in the pension for municipal employees. The employee contribution had been proposed to increase from 2.2 percent to 4 percent, but it came out of committee with a 1 percent increase per year, up to 5.2 percent. They are proposing to slightly increase the hours of the Building Official and the Zoning Officer. The Assessor's position is now a part-time

position and the salary has gone up. The biggest change in Capital and Non-Recurring is \$66,000 for funding projects for the Town Hall and Community Center. The operational contingency is increased because the Board of Finance uses 1.5 percent of municipal expenses.

There are proposed decreases in labor counsel, consultants, health and life insurance, the Regional Health District, state-mandated renters' rebate, police payroll, Planning and Zoning Commission and educational expenses.

The changes proposed between the Board of Finance budget and the First Selectman's budget are mainly reductions because of changes in budget numbers and the only real increase is \$35,000 per year to keep up the Old North Cemetery. The LoCIP revenue has been reduced by \$5,181 due to an error. There were some adjustments on the capital budget. The Fire Department received a grant for the breathing apparatus, so the town saved \$156,000.

Mr. Bailey mentioned that there is a bump in capital funding this year and debt service starts tapering off in 2021. Looking at the revenue history, State of Connecticut funding was up well over \$2.6 million back in FY14 and is now down to about \$2.1 million.

Other revenue sources include Middlefield Housing Authority, Joseph E. Coe Trust Fund, sale of property, telephone access line tax, rental of town property and miscellaneous, totaling \$142,000. Other financing sources include the fund balance transfer and Mr. Bailey explained that it had been budgeted, but not used.

The total town expenditure history shows that expenses have remained flat over eight years and educational costs show a slight decline. Looking at the undesignated fund history, in FY13, it was 9.4 percent and is now projected to be 16.2 percent in FY20, or almost \$2.7 million.

The taxable Grand List has increased about 2.2 percent for FY20 and the decline in the Grand List in FY18 was because of revaluation. Bob Yamartino asked how quickly the Eversource poles will depreciate and Mr. Bailey felt it was something like 15 years.

Mr. Bailey then went on to review the mill rate history and stated that the town is almost back to where it was in FY13. This year, the mill rate is projected to decrease by 5.85 percent from last year.

In summary, there was a \$115,000 increase in municipal expense and a \$535,000 decrease in education, resulting in a \$420,000 decrease in total town expenses. There was also a \$100,000 increase in revenue which results in a 2.02 mill rate decrease. The average property owner will see a \$326 savings on their tax bill.

The Town Meeting for the budget will be held on Monday, May 13, 2019.

There was then some discussion about electric rates and the prices of homes in the Massachusetts area.

Regional School District 13 Update

Bob Yamartino reported that the Board of Education presented their budget at a public hearing and reduced the budget an additional \$300,000 due to a decrease in benefits. This resulted in a net budget decrease of \$800,000 over the prior year and it is within \$200,000 of the minimum budget requirement (MBR). He explained that if the district goes below the MBR, they would start losing ECS money. Mr. Yamartino reviewed that the Board of Education came in with a flat budget last year and is coming in with a lower budget this year. TRB and ECS funding is also absorbed in the district's budget.

Dave Burgess asked if they lost the Latin program and Mr. Bailey stated they did not. Bob Yamartino explained that the Latin program will be maintained at the high school and the funding is in place for the middle school but a decision has not been made on that yet.

Ordinance Revision - Property Tax Relief for Retired Firefighters

Ed Bailey did not have the paperwork yet from the Town Counsel, so this item was tabled. He will probably call a special meeting to handle this issue so that it can be taken care of at the town meeting in May.

Resolution Concerning State of Connecticut Emergency Services

Ed Bailey read the resolution into the record, as attached to these minutes. He explained that the purpose of this resolution is for grant money and has been done before. Mr. Bailey also explained that the wording of the resolution was provided by the Department of Homeland Security. Bob Yamartino also suggested that the motion sheet says exactly what it is for in the future.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to adopt a resolution concerning the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a.k.a. DESPP-DEMHS. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments

A. Middlefield Housing Authority - Marty Smith (fill vacancy)

Ed Bailey explained that Mark Gribko passed away and he and Pete Sibley have worked very hard to get someone who has a background in construction/development for the Housing Authority.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to appoint Marty Smith to the Middlefield Housing Authority - term 10/01/2018 to 09/30/2023 (term vacated by Mark A. Gribko). Motion carried unanimously.

Giving Garden Update

Ed Bailey distributed the new brochure and reported that he and Laura Francis had been out there for the kick-off on Saturday morning. They have a lot of money coming in and have also received a donation of organic compost. A shed was purchased from Kloter Farms and has been installed. The irrigation system piping has been installed under the parking lot and will be hooked up soon. Another company donated a pile of oak for the raised beds and posts for the deer fence. Work is done at the garden on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, from 9 to 12.

First Selectman's Report

Ed Bailey reported that he and Al Rusilowicz have worked with the Board of Finance over the last month to produce the budget.

Mr. Bailey has also submitted testimony for various bills at the State Capitol. He has been going to COST and CCM meetings and the state budget has been the topic. He and Laura Francis met with Susan Bysiewicz and felt it was a productive meeting. They did ask her about the regional election monitors which had been funded by the state a couple of years ago.

Mr. Bailey also stated that MIRA is working toward making sure that the state's trash has a place to go. Recycling is a big challenge.

Mr. Yamartino thanked Ed Bailey for his hard work on getting the budget in so low this year. Mr. Bailey explained that they are going to start work in the Community Center by painting the Senior Center and refinishing the floors. There was some discussion about paint color on the walls and trim, but Mr. Bailey explained that they will not be changing the color of the trim as it will be labor-intensive and expensive.

Adjournment

Bob Yamartino 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____

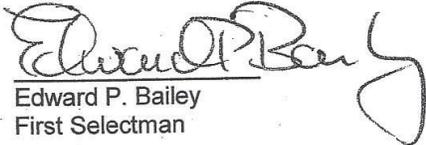


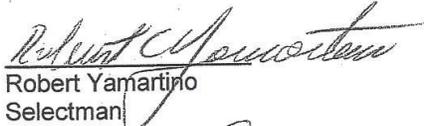
April 16th, 2019

Resolution by the Board of Selectmen, Town of Middlefield, CT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middlefield, CT may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Edward P. Bailey, as First Selectman of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middlefield, CT, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middlefield, CT and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.


Edward P. Bailey
First Selectman


Robert Yamartino
Selectman


David Burgess
Selectman

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
RECORDED IN MIDDLEFIELD CT
THIS 18 DAY OF April 2019
ATTEST: 
TOWN CLERK