

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Ed Bailey, Dave Burgess and Bob Yamartino were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None. Bailey Wright of the Town Times was present.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

A. May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

To correct the name from “Bob Yamartino” under the Public Hearing section to “Dave Burgess” as well as under the Giving Garden section change “Bob Yamartino” to “Dave Burgess”.

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting dated May 21, 2019, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional School District 13 Update

Bob Yamartino explained that both CRHS and MTA Academy have held their graduations and that both ceremonies were very nicely done.

He went on to say that the school budget and bonding were approved at referendum. He stated that the State budget also passed which will increase ECS funding to Durham and Middlefield. Retirement funding was not included in the budget. Bob also said that both Lucy and himself were elected to an additional term with the Board of Education and that Misty Booth was elected as a replacement from Durham.

L.E.D. Streetlight Contract

Ed Bailey reviewed a quick analysis of the project:

Approximate Acquisition Costs: \$124,000

Approximate Rebate Incentive: \$41,000

Approximate Projected Costs: \$191,000

Energy Savings payback period of 5.04 years; Energy Savings and Maintenance payback period of 7 years. This project would include 351 lights at about \$305.00 each. There will also be additional fixtures to be kept on hand as spares in the town garage.

Ed noted that the carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by about 2/3 on an annual basis by implementing the L.E.D. lighting project and the analysis shows that over a 20-year period the town would save about \$660,000. A Town Meeting would need to be held regarding this project and then work could begin approximately 5-6 weeks after that. There was some discussion regarding how to present this project to the general public to allow tax payers to thoroughly understand the costs and savings on a yearly basis as well as explaining what L.E.D. is and how it's better than what the Town is currently using.

Bob Yamartino made motion, seconded by Dave Burgess to approve a recommendation to the Board of Finance to approve funding an L.E.D. streetlight replacement project in an amount up to \$232,379.

Resolution to Join the Middletown Transit District aka Middletown Area Transit (MAT)

Mr. Bailey explained that the Middletown Transit District (MTD) is also known as Middletown Area Transit (MAT). He noted that the district was found in 1968 and that state statute 7-273B allows for the formation of a transit district. The board for the district was to be comprised of 6 members, appointed by the Mayor of Middletown. This board was to include 2 members from Middletown, and one member from the towns of Middlefield, Durham, Portland and East Hampton as these towns are included in the transit district.

Ed continued to explain that the district had been badly mismanaged and came under extreme financial trouble. He said that steps needed to be taken to correct the many issues the district was having including having 4 members of the board step down as all of the members were from the City of Middletown and this was not allowed by the state statute. In the mean time the State of Connecticut and First Transit have placed members to run the district in the interim. Mr. Bailey,

and the First Selectwomen of both Durham and Portland as well as the Town Manager of East Hampton have begun attending meetings as these towns have an interest in this transit district.

Ed Bailey discussed some of the issues the district experienced included nearly \$1.5 million in debt which could likely be attributed to funding from FTA / DOT as well as a \$400,000.00 line of credit with Liberty Bank. The district couldn't meet their obligations but new management was able to reorganize spending and slashed nearly \$320,000.00 in annual expenses and began paying on the line of credit about \$20,000.00 a month for the last 24 months. Other arrangements were made to payback debts to the DOT. Mr. Bailey noted that there hadn't been an audit of the district done in two years. Ed, with the help of Laura Francis at the board meeting, got the district to change auditors.

Ed continued by stating that one concern about joining the transit district was the outstanding debt, however, he found that since the restructuring the debt has been paid off. He explained that Middlefield currently contracts "Dial-A-Ride" and "Senior Bus" services from MTD. Ride share services such as Uber and Lyft cause bus ridership to be down over recent years. MTD is looking to a more "on demand" model. Ed explained that rather than having regular bus routes MTD intends to offer scheduling and the use of vans for a more point to point service. Some piloting of this model is going to be done on the shoreline, in Bridgeport, and Hartford. Mr. Bailey felt that this type of service would be beneficial in the future and that having the ability to participate with the board of the transit district will be good for the town going forward.

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to send to a Town Meeting for Middlefield to join the Middletown Transit District (a.k.a. Middletown Area Transit). Town meeting date to be determined.

Appointments

- A. Conservation Commission
 - 1) Brian McDermott - Term 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2021 - fill vacancy
 - 2) Chris Hurlburt – Term 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2019 – fill vacancy

- B. Central Region Tourism District
 - Tim Burt

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to appoint the above-named individuals. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Refunds

Bob Yamartino made motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve tax refunds as per list read into record and attached. Motion carried unanimously.

Prescription Discount Card Program Update

The board quickly reviewed the benefits and cost savings of the discount card program as discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Bailey said that he has about 1000 of these cards at his office and intends to send them out soon.

GIS Online Database

GIS stands for Geographic Information System. Ed Bailey explained that the GIS database is a mapping system that would streamline getting property and parcel information. Detailed parcel information such as owner, boundaries, and acreage would be available for anyone to look at. Ed stated that he has wanted this type of system for many years and that when he spoke to the interim town planner, William Warner, William strongly suggested getting this system in place. The data base would be helpful to the town Assessor and she would have access to update information in the system. An online portal would need to be created to access the data and a link will be established on our town website. The board took a look at the Town of Haddam's website as an example. Their database shows map and lot number, address, owner, and parcel ID, as well as any additional parcel details and pictures. The cost of having this system will be about \$3,500.00 per year.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Bailey reported that has been involved with negotiating a brand-new labor contract for the Plainville Southington Health District.

The state Legislature passes the budget and it was signed by the governor. The budget has several new items that effect municipalities. Ed said that he would provide detailed information regarding these items at a future meeting. One item included in the budget is the FMLA program. While this program doesn't affect us at this time, if one of the bargaining units decided they want to make a deal with the town to participate in the FMLA program then it would affect all town employees. The benefit of FMLA would be 12 weeks of leave every 3 years at 95% of pay or up to a maximum of \$900.00 per week for those 12 weeks.

Also included in the budget is the Resident State Trooper programs fringe benefit costs. The state will be picking up some of these costs which will in turn reduce costs to the town.

Employee contributions for the Municipal Employee Retirement Act (MERA) will be increasing. The employee contribution is currently 2.5% and the town pays the remainder. The town rate is set to increase from 11% to 22% over the next several years. The state has now raised the employee contribution to 4.5% over the next several years which will provide pension cost benefit to the town.

Ed continued to report that the town has received the ACS funding and it is larger than what was budgeted for.

Teacher retirement benefits were not pushed out to the towns so this will also be a savings.

Ed stated that he attended the Council of Small Towns meeting where a speaker gave his analysis of the State Budget and reviewed the tolls proposal and FMLA program. The speaker felt that our state budget is negative by about \$1.2 million. The board had a lengthy discussion regarding Governor Lamont's toll proposal and how it will affect the residents of the state.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

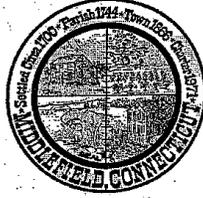
Tonya Hogan

Tonya Hogan
Assistant Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____

Town of Middlefield, Connecticut



Incorporated 1866

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE: Telephone (860) 349-7117; Fax (860) 349-7115
393 Jackson Hill Rd, P O Box 179, Middlefield, CT 06455

REQUEST FOR REFUNDS TO BE APPROVED BY BOARD OF SELECTMAN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILL #</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>CURRENT YEAR 01-01-4004</u>			
Alvarez Bianca L	17-03-50109	Sold 10-17	371.94
Lewis James M & Dora R	17-03-52537	Sold 1-18	397.05
Oiknew Melanie	17-04-80510	Junked 2-18	101.06
Peterson Brothers Electric LLC	17-03-53459	Sold 5-18	10.21
Peterson David J	17-03-53469	Sold 4-18	198.63
Peterson David J	17-03-53465	Sold 4-18	114.78
Wallett Craig W	17-03-54840	Totaled 6-18	17.07
<u>PRIOR YEAR 01-01-4005</u>			
Haan Auto Trust	16-03-51905	Sold 6-17	100.00

Anne L. Olszewski
Middlefield Certified Tax Collector

"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider."