

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the October 22nd, 2019 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Ed Bailey, Dave Burgess, and, Bob Yamartino were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. October 7th, 2019 Regular Meeting

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes of the October 7th, 2019 Board of Selectman Meeting. Motion carried.

Presentation by the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department regarding the Radio System Upgrade

Mr. Bailey began by explaining that the fire department has been working on getting an upgrade the communication systems for several years. The state of Connecticut has made an 800 MHz frequency available and the Volunteer Fire Department has put together a plan for an upgrade. Ed introduced Middlefield Fire Chief Pete Tyc.

Chief Tyc reiterated that the department has indeed been working on this plan for quite some time. The new Communication system is part of the CT Radio Network System which is from the Department of Public Protection and Emergency Services – more commonly know as the State Police. The system was established to serve the Police but does have the capacity to serve municipalities and allows them to operate as part of the Radio System. Chief Tyc felt that this system is the best value for what they have right now and that there are a few opportunities for purchasing under existing contracts. He then reviewed costs that other towns have incurred for upgrades to their communication systems.

Assistant Chief Steve Tyc then passed out a power point presentation that detailed the system upgrade to help everyone understand what the new system is all about. The presentation reviewed the system that is currently in place and detailed how the upgrade would work and how the newer system would better meet the needs of the Department. Assistant Chief Tyc reviewed the different equipment the department uses such as hand held radio's, fixed radio units inside vehicles and pagers. He then discussed the different band widths and how they work as well as the different tower locations the system uses for dispatch. He went over a diagram that explained how the different frequencies worked and how communications are made through those frequencies and towers in the area and finally out to the radios and pagers of the firemen. He also reviewed the improved coverage area the new system would provide. There was a question regarding cost and Mr. Bailey stated that there are no final numbers at this point but should have numbers available in about a week. He also said that a joint meeting may be called with the Board of Finance due to a deadline for this project of November 5th as part of the Middletown Municipal Contract. Discussion continued around replacement equipment and potential service agreements. The group thanked Chief Tyc and Assistant Chief Tyc for their great work on the presentation.

Adjourn Selectman Meeting at 7PM for a Public Hearing and Town Meeting

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to adjourn to the Public Hearing and Town Meeting. Motion carried.

Reconvene Board of Selectman Meeting after the Town Meeting

L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion Update

Ed Explained that contracts are being worked on with Eversource. The town's council and Eversource council are working out the details for the purchase of existing streetlights. Once that step is complete the installation can begin. Four test fixtures will be going up shortly. They will be installed on Jackson Hill Rd in front of Town Hall and the Firehouse also at the

intersection of Mack Rd and Jackson Hill Rd. Once the test fixtures are installed a note will go up on our town website informing people to take a look at the new lights. Ed pointed out that new L.E.D. fixtures have been installed along most of route 66.

First Selectman's Report

Ed reported that last Friday new signs went up around the Lake Beseck watershed. Ed showed pictures of the new signage. He stated that several years ago the town underwent a watershed management study and the 1,317-acre area was mapped out in the process. Displaying the signs is intended to increase awareness of the Watershed area and to encourage those living within the area to decrease use of fertilizers and manage storm water on their properties with rain barrels and rain gardens rather than allowing it to run into the lake and rivers. The Lake Environment Committee has been successful in engaging residents living close to the lake. The signs were designed by volunteer Kathy Kokoszka. Ed also explained that the lake is currently being drawn down by 6 feet and the damn was opened on October 15th. It was estimated the lake was down by about 5-6 inches.

Mr. Bailey continued his report stating that Drug Takeback Day is Saturday, October 26th. Collection be held at the Troopers office from 10AM to 2PM. Also, at the Community Center on the 26th there will be a Free Narcan Training from 10AM to 11AM. He said that thanks to various grants the Narcan is available at a greatly reduced cost from what it used to be. There was some talk of the Takeback Day being very successful in the past. Ed explained that the Durham & Middlefield Wellness Coalition provides packets that can be used at home to destroy drugs in the event residents couldn't make it to the event. The packets are available at the Town Hall & Community Center. He noted that it is highly discouraged to flush medications and drugs into a sewer or septic system as it can pollute ground water.

This will be Dave Burgess's last Selectman's meeting. Dave thanked the board for everything and expressed his enjoyment working on the board. He also pointed out how grateful he was for the Proclamation that he was presented. He wished the board all of the best in the future. Bob and Ed thanked Dave for his service.

Adjournment

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey 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 _____