

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the September 17th, 2019 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Ed Bailey, and Dave Burgess, were present. Bob Yamartino would join the meeting later as noted.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Ed Bailey noted the following changes be made to the Agenda under item 9. Appointments:

- i. Conservation Commission – David Cekala – Term 1/1/17 to 12/31/20 - Fill Vacancy
- ii. Planning and Zoning – Paul Pizzo – Term 1/1/17 to 12/31/19 – Fill Vacancy

Ed Bailey made motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment

A resident from 20 Lake Rd. was present and was questioning why the town crew didn't complete mowing with the over guard rail mower near his driveway and around signs in the area. The resident stated he contacted John Wyskiel and was still waiting to hear from him. Ed said that he was told by the crew that they couldn't mow the area. The resident then showed pictures from his phone of the area. Mr. Bailey told the resident that he would get more information and work to get a resolution.

Also present from the public was Everett Bishop, reporter from the Town Times.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectman Meetings

a. August 12, 2019 Special Meeting

Ed Bailey made motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectman Special Meeting dated August 12, 2019. Motion carried.

Discussion of a proposed transfer of land locked Town owned lot; map 3, lot 23 to the property located at 1 Meriden Road.

Ed explained that there is a small piece of land, about 2/10's of an acre that the town acquired through a tax foreclosure. The piece of land is virtually useless as it is landlocked. The owners of 1 Meriden Road would like to acquire this lot. Unfortunately, this landlocked lot (#23) is zoned residential and 1 Meriden Road (#20) is zoned commercial. Mr. Bailey is looking to the town planner to determine what might be done to add the small lot to the 1 Meriden Road lot making the landlocked piece more productive.

"Giving Garden" update and request – Jen Huddleston

Ed stated that Betsy St. John and Jen Huddleston were unable to attend this meeting. He mentioned that they wanted to discuss having bees at the garden. Dave reiterated that he felt the town attorney should be contacted to determine what liability the town could have if a person who is allergic to bee stings were to be stung at the garden. Ed said he plans to meet with the town's insurance underwriter in a week and that they also do provide legal advice and he plans to discuss the bees with them. Ed also said that the garden recently donated assorted vegetables to the senior lunch for salad. He also said there have been speakers at the garden on Saturday's at noon and anyone is welcome to attend.

Housing Rehab Program Update

The town has \$120,000 in housing rehab program funds and are currently assisting a resident with their roof. The job will be going out to bid next week.

L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion Update

Mr. Bailey had a meeting with the vendor supplying the lights. A test light will be going up at the town hall parking lot next week to see how it looks. Once the test light has been set up and approved the order of 349 lights will take about two weeks.

Appointments

Ed Bailey noted the following appointments:

- i. Conservation Commission – David Cekala – Term 1/1/17 to 12/31/20 - Fill Vacancy
- ii. Planning and Zoning – Paul Pizzo – Term 1/1/17 to 12/31/19 – Fill Vacancy

Ed Bailey made motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve appointments. Motion carried.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Bailey reported that at a past meeting a member of the public stated that the Public Health District spends only one hour per week here in Middlefield. Ed questioned the person as to where they obtained that information and the person couldn't recall where they had heard it. Ed then checked with the district to see what they had been working on and found that through the end of June they had worked on the following:

- *12 Permits for construction repairs of Septic Systems, at least one of which required inspection.*
- *10 Soil tests for septic systems*
- *12 Food inspections*
- *9 Nuisance / Housing complaints that required multiple visits*
- *1 Hair Salon inspection*
- *1 Planned review of a hair salon establishment*

Based on this information Ed felt that the work done by the Public Health District clearly constituted more than one hour per week.

*****At this time Bob Yamartino joined the meeting*****

Ed said that the cell tower lease process is finally done and the Emergency Communications Equipment can now be installed.

He then provided a handout from the Department of Public Health regarding Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The disease has been discovered in mosquitos in surrounding towns. The virus is active until the first heavy frost so it is important for residents to protect themselves. There is a DPH test station located on the Durham / Middlefield town line but no infected mosquitos have been reported at that location thus far. Dave did mention that the first diagnosed human case was reported in East Lyme and that EEE has a 30% fatality rate.

Ed continued his report by saying that the culvert repair on Old Indian Trail has been completed. The detour worked well that he was pleased with the work the Middlefield Town Crew contributed to this project. The town essentially was the general contractor on this job and the office of the First Selectman was very involved in the process from obtaining Detour permits to sending letters to notify business owners and residents in the area. A traffic control company was hired to handle the detour route and a contractor was also hired to bring in the necessary equipment to excavate the area. The job was successfully completed in 5 days at a total cost of about \$50,000. Another culvert repair was also completed on Cherokee Road at the lake. It was a "legacy" culvert meaning that it was one of the original culverts from when the lake area was all private roads.

Mr. Bailey said that the town held it's second "Shredding Event" on August 17th. RiverCog funds the event and it was a well-attended one. 180 cars came of which 55 were from Middlefield.

Ed touched briefly on budget surplus and said he would bring numbers to the next meeting but that overall, our town is in very good standing.

Bob mentioned that there had been a few suicides in town and he went on to tell about a book that he recently read. The book detailed a deep review of Google searches which revealed that there are about 350 million searches per month on various topics of suicide. He found the numbers to be rather astonishing.

Ed continued the topic by saying that Durham and Middlefield Youth and Family Services and our Wellness coalition has cards with helpline phone numbers on them that can be handed out to the community. He also said that the groups are in the process of a community outreach program with funds they received from a grant. DMYFS will be at the Durham Fair and will be working to inform kids of the dangers of drugs and alcohol as well as the latest vaping concerns. Mr. Bailey along with DMYFS, Laura Francis, the school resource officer, as well as Resident Troopers Bria and Morello will hold an assembly Monday 9/23 at Cuginchaug High School to warn the students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol at the fair. They will report that there will be undercover officers on the grounds.

Dave then mentioned that the 7th death from vaping related illness was just reported. He said that the CDC has activated its emergency response center and that there are currently 330 cases of vaping related illness nationwide.

It was also said that the National Suicide Prevention hotline is planning to roll out a nationwide 3-digit phone number to aid people in crisis from having to remember the lengthy 1-800 number.

Lastly, Ed explained that one of the biggest complaints among residents is speeding cars on our roads. Due to this concern Ed will be rolling out a campaign including signs with different phrases encouraging drivers to slow down which include "Drive Like your Kids Live here", "Slow Down" and "Drive Like your Pets Live here".

Tax Refunds

Bob Yamartino read the listing of refunds into the record.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Dave, to approve the tax refunds as read and attached. Motion carried unanimously

Public Comment

Kathy Kokoszka joined the meeting to deliver a gift to Dave Burgess. This is Mr. Burgess's last term on the Board of Selectman. Dave said that he has enjoyed his time working with the board and said to Kathy that the Republicans and Unaffiliated folks in town have shown him more love than his own party. Kathy went on to say that Dave has always come in and left his affiliation at the door and worked for the town and that she respects that. Ed also thanked Dave for his work. Dave said that he has always just tried to do what was right and be himself.

Ed talked briefly about the Old North Burial Grounds. The town has received a grant for Neglected Cemeteries and the Historical Society will be handling the rehab project. Ed noted that many trees have already been cut down and portions of the fence removed. He said they hope to replace the old style fence that was originally there.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

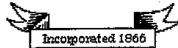
Tonya Hogan

Tonya Hogan
Assistant Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____

Town of Middlefield, Connecticut



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>			
Burt Robert G	03-50581	Moved to TN	83.87
Flaws James	03-51505	Sold 8/18	287.62
Hunt Tamra L	03-52033	Sold 4/19	51.18
JP Morgan Chase Bank	03-52143	Sold 4/19	211.90
Kramer Peter	03-52324	Ck to much	74.05
Lacz Lawrence J	03-52386	Sold 7/2019	39.19
Newton Christopher C	03-53162	Sold 8/19	9.90
Rodrigue Roger J & Christine A	03-53747	Junked 7/19	10.46
Rosa Lawrence	03-53815	Totaled 7/19	39.35
Steel James K	03-54296	Sold 7/19	52.12
Szewczyk Jenny F	03-54356	Sold 6/19	19.87
Trombetta Robert	03-54550	Sold 5/19	29.94
Toyoyta Tease Trust	03-54501	Moved to RI	231.03
USB Leasing LT	03-54624	Sold 10/18	1,222.56
Wawrowski Stanley	03-54788	Sold 7/19	22.50
White Kelli A & Patrick S	03-54851	Wrong town	338.01
White Kelli A & Patrick S	03-54850	Wrong town	326.65
Wojas Zbigniew	03-54902	Sold 6/19	21.43
<u>PRIOR YEAR 01-01-4005</u>			
Cab East LLC	03-50614	Sold 12/17	480.86
Dumas Brian	01-1308	Ck to much	142.37
Ean Holdings LLC	03-51335	Sold 12/17	277.54
Kinell John T & Toni R	03-52233	Repo 5/18	120.02
Kramer Peter	03-52380	Ck too much	12.00
Kukish Peter A Jr	03-52361	Sold 7/18	24.66
Toyota Lease Trust	03-54577	Sold 2/18	324.55
Toyota Lease Trust	03-54583	Returned 4/18	326.90
Vault Trust	03-54734	Sold 3/18	337.49
VW Credit Leasing LTD	03-54800	Lease terminated	267.99

Anne L. Olszewski
Middlefield Certified Tax Collector

"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider."