

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the November 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Ed Bailey, Bob Yamartino, and Carol Bufithis 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.

Public Comment

None. Taryn Ruffino, Middlefield Treasurer was present.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. November 4th, 2019 Regular Meeting
- b. November 4th, 2019 Joint Meeting of the Boards of Selectmen & Finance

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the minutes of the November 4th, 2019 Board of Selectman Meeting and Joint Meeting of the Boards of Selectmen & Finance. Carol Bufithis abstained. Motion carried.

Set Schedule for Board of Selectmen Meetings for 2020

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Carol Bufithis, to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates for calendar year 2020, as attached. Motion carried.

Approve the Organization of the Board of Selectmen as per the Town Charter Section 402

Order of succession of the First Selectman & Board of Selectmen:

- 1) Robert Yamartino, 2nd Selectman
- 2) Carol Bufithis, 3rd Selectman
- 3) Chairman, Board of Finance

In the temporary absence or unavailability of the First Selectman the above individuals listed in the order above are authorized to act in the capacity of the First Selectman.

Ed Bailey made motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to approve the Organization of the Board of Selectmen as per Town Charter Section 402. Motion carried.

Public Safety Radio Communication Equipment Update

Ed explained that a final order for the radios had been created and submitted to Motorola. Tower equipment and installation arrangements are in progress. Pagers will be the next piece of the equipment order process.

L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion Update – Pilot Streetlight in place

Ed reviewed the locations of the Pilot Streetlights that have already been put into place and encouraged everyone to take a look at the new lights to see the improvement over older models. He also said that the State of CT installed new L.E.D. lights along Route 66, which are different from the fixtures we will be installing; however, the improvement is quite noticeable along the roadway. Although the lighting project has been a long one having been started about four years ago Ed felt it was to our benefit because we will be getting newer “3rd Generation” lights.

First Selectman’s Report

Ed began by welcoming Carol to the Board and Bob agreed they are please to have Carol joining them. Ed, Bob, and Carol all agreed that they intend to do what is best for the Town.

Mr. Bailey said that he recently attended the Finance Committee Meeting for Regional School District 13. One of the topics discussed was our financial position for our budget consideration for FY-21. Ed highlighted some of our budget challenges so far. Jim Irish, a member of the Finance committee for RSD13, created a report with input from both Al Rusilowicz, Finance Director, and Ed to show the shift in enrollment this year that based on our current budget would cost about \$62K more in our allotment. Also, Ed said that we expect a reduction in ECS

(Education Cost Sharing). He then noted the lease for the communication equipment will cost about \$51K Per year. Ed showed a printout to the group from an organization that deals with school finance issues that showed projected numbers going forward, however, this projection doesn't take into consideration any decrease in enrollment. Ed is working on a spreadsheet to better look at our actual scenario for future budgets for Middlefield. Discussion continued around the school district, changes in enrollment, and future changes in the school district itself. The group also discussed studies that have been done to project a steady decline in enrollment throughout the state of Connecticut. Bob pointed out that our population in Connecticut is steadily declining due to many factors including home values and businesses leaving our state.

Ed continued his report stating that we may plan for our roads over a 5 to 10-year period up to 5 million in spending for road improvement including reconstruction. He also discussed the firehouse and said he will likely appoint a firehouse building committee to determine what costs associated with that could be.

Ed then explained that a preliminary Engineering study needs to be done for our "Collector Roads" (roads that feed state roads) in order to begin the application process for grant money. Unfortunately, grant funds do not cover the engineering costs.

Bob asked to consider adding a town-wide celebration to recognize all of the wonderful volunteers who contribute to Old Home Days. The group discussed planning something possibly the Thursday night before the Old Home Days. They spoke about holding the event outdoors and the logistics associated with the celebration like locations, costs, entertainment and food. Carol also suggested doing an event at another time of the year. Bob mentioned maybe using Powder Ridge as a venue as well.

Ed then reported that our ECS is off \$200K and miscellaneous funding is down \$125K for a total of \$325K over the last 4 to 5 years. Governor Lamont has finally released the bond money for road repairs which he had held back on previously. Ed said that last year we spent \$375K on our roads which is the highest he's seen in recent history. Without these funds Ed said that the cost would then be passed onto the town.

Adjournment

Carol Bufithis 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 _____