

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. Ed Bailey and Carol Bufithis were present. Bob Yamartino was not present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Add item 7.a. MIRA Statement of Interest

Ed Bailey made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

a. February 3, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Ed Bailey noted that on page 4 under “L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion” the name “Eversource” should be replaced with the contractor name of “Red Thread”.

Ed Bailey made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.

Discussion on upcoming FY21 Budget

Mr. Bailey and Finance Director Al Rusilowicz have been working diligently on the upcoming budget. Ed noted that the Grand List has increased by about \$12M which equates to about \$400K in revenue without any adjustment to the Mil Rate. The school budget has been issued with an increase of about 2.6% or approximately \$305K for our town, the shift in enrollment creates an additional increase of approximately \$60K for a total of about \$365K which is offset by the increased tax revenue from the Grand List.

Ed noted the State reduction in ECS funding (Educational Cost Sharing Grant) which is a State formula that has been implemented and phased in over the course of several years. Currently we are looking at a reduction of approximately \$47K this coming year. Ed provided a spreadsheet that illustrates the decline in funding year over year. He explained that the towns are refunded with this grant based on the number of students enrolled from each town. Per student cost which has continued to be a challenge, is going up significantly due to the lower total enrollment.

Ed noted that we still have not received any of our Municipal Project Grant Funds (\$250K) or our Town Aid Road Funds (\$186K) to date which he said is being held hostage by our governor who promised the funds several months ago.

Ed provided a copy of the Town Audit which shows that there is currently \$3.13M in our Undesignated Fund Balance, or 18% of our budget, which is very good; and \$2.5M in Capital totaling \$5.53M. Ed noted a budget surplus from last fiscal year of \$261,994 some of which can be attributed to the cost savings in the Resident Trooper line item.

MIRA Statement of Interest

Ed presented a handout of notes made by the Board of Selectmen at the last meeting in regards to concerns with the MIRA changes. He reviewed the handout which included Bob's objection to socialized transportation costs as well as Carol's suggestion to reduce waste stream by localized composting. Ed said that the state is looking to install digesters for composting around the state. Carol mentioned that Thomas Kirk of MIRA is going to be doing a presentation in Durham regarding composting and that she would like him to do a presentation for us in Middlefield. Ed closed out the topic by saying he would bring the groups notes to the board of MIRA for review.

*****Recess for Public Hearing and Town Meeting concerning the sale of 171 Hubbard Street to Middlesex Habitat for Humanity*****

Public Hearing

Mr. Bailey called the Public Hearing to order at 7:02 pm. The purpose of the public hearing and town meeting was read into record (and attached).

Jerry Russ asked if permit fees were built into the contract and Ed stated that permits and other expenses would be the responsibility of Habitat for Humanity.

A woman asked if there would be a public notice made to ask for local residents to volunteer to help on the build and there will be one published.

It was explained that this build will be a veteran's build and Habitat will work with company's that are dedicated to veterans. Curtis from Habitat described the layout of the home and the intent for it to be energy star efficient.

No other questions or comments were heard from the public, closing the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Public Safety Radio Communication Equipment Update

Installation has been completed for the portable and mobile radios. Equipment will be installed on the tower in the near future.

RSD-13 Update

The school budget has been published and meetings will continue to further discuss the budget.

L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion Update

Construction should begin during the first or second week of March, weather permitting. Reconciliation with Eversource is ongoing.

Tax Refunds

Ed Bailey made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the Tax Refunds submitted by the tax collector as read into record and attached. Motion carried.

First Selectman's Report; Legislative Issues Affecting Municipalities

Ed reported that he will be attending the Annual Council of Small Towns meeting where they will discuss legislative issues affecting municipalities. One of the issues they will address will be a benefit to Lake Beseck. Currently there is a lake water draw down period that begins November 1st and ends January 1st, new legislation will extend that period to February 1st, allowing more time for the exposed lake bed to freeze in the winter conditions, in turn inhibiting the growth of vegetation. Lake water draw down has been proven effective in limiting the amount of plant growth in lakes. Ed explained that the lake and dam are owned by the State which sometimes makes taking care of the environmental needs of the lake complicated. Ed noted that the installation of "Lake Beseck Watershed" signs have been posted around the lake area. The intention is to draw public awareness to the importance of protecting this watershed and to encourage residents to limit use of chemicals and pesticides in the area as well as being careful with runoff from their properties.

Ed discussed the concerns over Coronavirus and reported that our health department has been working diligently to keep abreast of the most up to date information regarding the prevention and spread of the virus. Although it has been reported that there is a shortage of masks, our emergency management team has a supply of "N95" masks which filters 95% of airborne particulates.

Carol spoke about a recent meeting she had with Laura Francis where they talked about reducing the amount of municipal waste produced by our towns, in turn reducing costs. Discussion continued about DMIAAB and composting resources being made available to townspeople.

Carol also touched on the desire for a town "Tool Share" program. Carol mentioned the possibility of housing the share at DMIAAB but Ed pointed out that not all residents use the facility and the facility requires the sticker to enter the property which would limit access to residents.

The discussion continued around DMIAAB fees and ways to encourage residents to minimize their trash flow.

Adjournment

Ed Bailey made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, 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 _____

Legal Notice
Town of Middlefield, CT
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing and a Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Middlefield, will be held at meeting room 2 at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main Street, in said Town of Middlefield, Connecticut, at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 for the following purposes to wit:

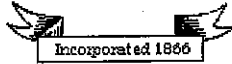
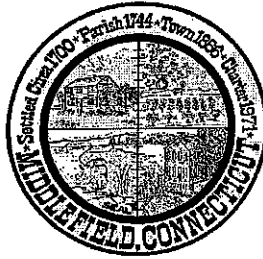
1. Shall the town meeting authorize the First Selectman to transfer title to a certain piece or parcel of land owned by the town known as 171 Hubbard St., Middlefield, CT 06455 to Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of Connecticut for the consideration of \$53,424?

The property in question is shown on the Assessor's map 12, Lot 105, in the Town of Middlefield and the legal description may be viewed in Book 334 at Page 935 of the Middlefield Land Records.

At this meeting any and all citizens may appear and be heard, and written communications will be received. If any resident cannot attend but wants to be heard, signed written comments may be submitted to Edward P. Bailey, First Selectman, Town of Middlefield, 393 Jackson Hill Road, Middlefield, CT 06455, no later than 4 P.M. on the above date.

Dated in Middlefield, Connecticut, this 3rd, day of February, 2020.
Edward P. Bailey
First Selectman

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 APROVED BY BOARD OF SELECTMAN

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>BILL #</u> | <u>REASON</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <u>CURRENT YEAR 01-01-4004</u> | | | |
| Champagne Steven H & Francine M | 18-03-50773 | Sold 6-2019 | 45.46 |
| Dumas Timothy | 18-01-559 | Ck too much | 174.29 |
| Fisher Alan G | 18-03-51499 | Ck too much | 117.88 |
| Meadows Wallace E & Mark E | 18-03-52867 | Ck too much | 40.05 |
| Nissan Infiniti Lt | 18-03-53195 | Vet exempt missed | 427.95 |
| Torrison Stone & Garden LLC | 18-02-40314 | Ck too much | 150.31 |
| Toyota Lease Trust | 18-03-54509 | Reg out of State | 207.68 |
| Vault Trust | 18-03-54652 | Sold 5-2019 | 211.38 |
| <u>PRIOR YEAR 01-01-4005</u> | | | |
| Brayshaw Alan R | 17-03-50501 | Sold 1-2017 | 70.01 |
| Gills Alexander J | 17-01-715 | Ck too much | 62.55 |
| Lindsay David B | 17-01-1100 | Ck too much | 100.02 |
| Sybarite Elite Inc | 17-02-40312 | Ck too much | 150.35 |

Anne L. Olszewski
Middlefield Certified Tax Collector

"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider."