

**MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**405 Main Street**  
**Middlefield, Connecticut 06455**

Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order; Ed Bailey and Carol Bufithis were present. Bob Yamartino was absent.

Approval of Agenda

Add 11.a DMIAAB Composting Pilot Program and 11.b Community Conversation Update.

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

Public Comment

Marianne Corona was present and commented on the following: Representative Michael Quinn may be able to assist our fire department with funding, Marianne urged Mr. Bailey and the department to reach out to him. Marianne stated that she had tried to join the Planning and Zoning and said that Town Planner Robin Newton sent her a note stating that she was not to make comment and that a Public Hearing would be held in the future where Marianne could ask questions and comment. Marianne explained that it is important for any and all documents that a department is working on need to be available to the public and she felt this should be done in a centralized fashion rather than having to contact Robin directly. In closing Marianne discussed the already very high costs of disposal of municipal waste and noted the need to address the future increases of disposal costs. Ed Bailey and Carol Bufithis both noted the ongoing work they are doing to address municipal waste and the rising expenses associated with it.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. March 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting

***Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Edward Bailey, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.***

- b. April 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting: add the following omission
  - f. Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
    - vi. Patrick John Manning – Reappoint to term 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2023, 3/3

***Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Edward Bailey, to approve the minutes April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting with the noted amendment. Motion carried.***

#### COVID-19 Update

Ed stated that the mask mandate has been lifted although private businesses, state and municipal agencies and offices can still require masks inside their facilities. He said that the Town Hall will be a bit more accessible and plans to allow for one visitor per department as the offices and hallway are very small. Appointments and walk-ins will be welcome. Tax Collection will continue at the window for July and the Community Center will also allow one visitor per department. Current COVID cases in Middlefield are zero per 100,000, unfortunately, one new case may be reported with next weeks numbers. Schools will maintain masks through the end of the school year and summer camp will be held.

Ed felt that the town staff has done a great job with accommodating customers by finding new ways to do business as well as implementing new technology which has been helpful with increasing efficiency.

#### RSD-13 Update

In Bob's absence, Ed briefly mentioned that the School Budget had passed at referendum and noted that Durham has voted to retain Korn School.

#### FY22 Budget Update

The Board of Finance will be holding their Public Hearing on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The proposed MIL Rate is 31.82, a decrease from 32.23 for the prior year. Ed explained they are expecting expenses associated with the Firehouse Building project as well as Capital Improvement Projects for our roads. Ed said that he anticipates creating a plan for our road improvements and sharing that with the public. Carol thanked Ed for his work on the budget.

Carol questioned where funds for the firehouse were going to come from and Ed stated that they've put aside \$100K for planning purposes. He said that if additional funds are required for

planning a town meeting could be held to add additional funds from the towns undesignated fund. As for funding construction, Ed said that would likely go to bonding.

Notice of Annual Town Budget Meeting: Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7PM at Peckham Park

Mr. Bailey read the Budget Meeting Notice for the meeting to be held at Peckham Park Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

***Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Edward Bailey, to set the Annual Town Budget Meeting for June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7PM at Peckham Park, as per attached. Motion carried.***

American Recovery Act Funding

Mr. Bailey finally received some clarification and guidance on American Recovery Act Funding. There will be a committee designated to help towns and cities determine how these funds can be used. So far, Ed has identified some potential uses such as: replacement of one of our older pump stations, funding for Youth and Family Services to help deal with the negative impact of COVID-19 on our youth, and food insecurity for citizens in town as well as individuals struggling to pay rent. Ed said that he will present his recommendations to the board for approval and welcomes suggestions from them as well. Carol asked how much the funding will be and Ed stated that Middlefield will receive \$1.1M which will come in two installments and can be spent over a three-year period.

Community Road Clean Up Report

The community road clean up was a success and Ed, Carol, and Hannah Malcolm were all involved. Around 30 volunteers worked throughout town, while another 45 worked with Amy Poturnicki throughout the Lake Beseck area. Ed was impressed with how nice things looked after the event. Carol will be working on a few improvements for next year and hopes to have a better turn out of volunteers.

DMIAAB Composting Pilot Program

Carol reported that they have received a \$2500.00 grant from CVEF for this program. She plans to have a flier created to insert into tax bills so that people in the community can learn about the program. She is hoping to have residents sign up through the town website to participate.

### Community Conversation Update

Carol was delighted to report that they have received a \$1500.00 grant, also from CVEF, for this program to be used to bring speakers to their zoom meetings. The first speaker will appear at the June meeting via zoom.

### Tree Removal at Community Center

As a matter of information, Ed wanted to let the members of the board know that there is a possibility that two trees, located in the upper parking area at the community center next to the giving garden, could be removed. Although they are nice, mature, healthy trees, the town is looking to have the parking lot repaved and contractors who have come to look at the job have suggested the removal of the trees. Further discussion on this matter is planned for a future meeting.

### Appointments

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals
  - i. Michael Janis – Correction to number of terms, 01/01/2017 to 12/31/2022, 1/3
- b. Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
  - i. Charles Zieminski – Raise Alternate to Regular Member, fill vacant term of Irene Angiletta, Term 01/01/2020 to 12/31/2022

***Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Edward Bailey, to approve the appointments as listed above. Motion carried.***

### First Selectman's Report

Mr. Bailey reported that he continues to be involved in many meetings surrounding COVID as well as monthly meetings with Laura Francis and Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools. His main focus has been working with RiverCog, Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Government, with regards to the American Recover Act Funding. Ed hopes to present plans in late June or July to the board on how the funds could be spent and again encouraged the board members to give suggestions on how they would like to use the funds.

Adjournment

***Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Edward 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# TOWN of MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT



Office of the First Selectman

## ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021


NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Town Budget Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in a Town Meeting of the Town of Middlefield, will be held at to be held at Peckham Park (Pavilion), 161 Strickland Road, in said Town of Middlefield, Connecticut, at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for the following purposes to wit:

1. To act on the Board of Finance proposal for the General Government, Education, and Capital Nonrecurring Budgets for the Fiscal Year July 1st, 2021, through June 30th, 2022.
2. To elect two (2) electors of the Town of Middlefield to serve on the Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board (DMIAAB). Term from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
3. To elect one (1) elector of the Town of Middlefield to serve on the Board of Education Finance Committee of Regional School District 13; to fill vacant terms from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

At this meeting any and all citizens may appear and be heard, and written communications will be received.

Copies of the proposed Budget are available at the Town Clerks Office and on the Town's website: [www.middlefieldct.org](http://www.middlefieldct.org)

This meeting is called by the Board of Selectmen of Middlefield, Connecticut, this 18th day of May, 2021; as authorized per the Governor's Executive Order 10E.2.h, dated April 6th, 2021.

  
Edward P. Bailey  
First Selectman