

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Mr. Yamartino called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Bob Yamartino, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Marianne Corona was present and questioned the process of making an appointment to fill the vacancy in the office of the First Selectman and how they came to their decision. Bob explained that after reviewing possible candidates and much deliberation they felt that Bob would be best suited to fill the role. Bob went on to explain that he would be resigning from the Board of Education. Discussion then turned to the John Lyman School bonding.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. November 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Robert Yamartino made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.

Appointments

Carol Bufithis made motion, second by Robert Yamartino, to appoint Robert C. Yamartino as First Selectman, to fill the unexpired term of Edward P. Bailey from 11/15/2021 – 11/19/2023. Motion carried.

Carol Bufithis made motion, second by Robert Yamartino, to appoint James R. Irish as Selectman, to fill the unexpired term of Robert C. Yamartino from 11/15/2021 – 11/19/2023. Motion carried.

Swearing in of BOS Appointees

Town Clerk, Donna Golub, was present to swear in Bob Yamartino as First Selectman and Jim Irish as Selectman.

Finance Director – Executive Search Committee Report

An Executive Search Committee was formed when Al Rusilowicz, Finance Director, had submitted his resignation. After lengthy conversations with the Executive Search Committee, it was determined that Mr. Rusilowicz would rescind his resignation and remain in the role of Finance Director.

Robert Yamartino made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to absolve the executive search committee for Finance Director. Motion carried.

Board of Finance appointment process

Mr. Yamartino suggested the formation of an Executive Search Committee in order to find a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance. Search committee members will include all members of the Board of Selectmen, Al Rusilowicz, Donna Golub, and David Lowry.

Robert Yamartino made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to create an Executive Search Committee to find a candidate for the Board of Finance. Motion Carried.

Firehouse Building Committee

Bob attended the most recent meeting of the Fire House Building Committee where they discussed terms of the contract and reviewed initial configuration of the buildings. Bob asked Chief Tyc to explain what next steps would be. Chief Tyc said that a needs assessment would be conducted to review what they need for continuing function of the building. This will include accommodating the size of new equipment, new mandates that are in effect, and a structural assessment. From the assessment the architects will then present plans to address their findings. Chief Tyc hopes to move forward with this process rather rapidly as this is a large undertaking and lengthy project that is already behind schedule.

RSD13 Update

Mr. Yamartino reiterated that he will be submitting his resignation from the Board of Education to Lucy Petrella, chairman of the board as well as Doug Schuch, Superintendent of Schools. Bob then reviewed the Public Hearing and bonding process for the renovations and improvements to John Lyman School.

Ratification of Town Hall Union Contract

Al Rusilowicz reviewed a summary of the changes made to the contract which include salary increases as well as employee contributions to health insurance co-pay and minor verbiage changes.

Robert Yamartino made motion, second by Jim Irish, to approve ratification of the Town Hall Union Contract. Motion Carried

Ratification of Local 1303-283, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL- CIO (Public Works) Union Contract

Al Rusilowicz again reviewed a summary of the changes made to the contract which include salary increases as well as employee contributions to the health insurance co-pay and safety equipment.

Robert Yamartino made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve ratification of the Local 1303-283, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Public Works) Union Contract. Motion Carried

MTA/Estuary Merger Town Meeting

Bob gave a brief overview and background on the Middletown Transportation Authority and how this merger would benefit member towns by expanding and providing more flexible transportation to local residents. Joining the Estuary District does require a vote at a Town Meeting. As Bob will be resigning from the Board of Education election of a Middlefield member to the Board of Education will be added to the same Town Meeting.

Carol Bufithis made motion, second by Jim Irish, to set the date of January 24, 2022 for a town meeting for the MTA/Estuary Merger and election of a Middlefield member to the Board of Education. Motion carried

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund – Preliminary List

The list of projects to be completed under the APRA Fund was approved at a prior Board of Selectmen meeting. Al Rusilowicz explained that some of the projects are quite significant and they should create a more formal process to establish specifications and bidding requirements. A final list of projects to be completed is to be submitted to the state at the end of January.

Footbridge Ad Hoc Committee – Nominations

The footbridge would connect Peckham Park to the Strickland Open Space property. The committee would be able to oversee the process and start formally discussing the requirements, location, design and permitting needed to move forward with the project. Bob noted that during a prior conversation, Hannah Malcolm offered to chair the committee. It was decided that Hannah will establish a list of possible members to be appointed to the committee for the Board of Selectman to review and approve.

Jim Irish made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to establish the Footbridge Ad Hoc Committee. Motion carried.

Set Schedule for Regular 2022 Board of Selectman Meetings

Bob Yamartino made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the schedule for 2022 Regular Board of Selectman meetings as attached. Motion carried.

Other Business

Jim Irish wondered if there had been any discussion with Durham in regards to the Economic Recovery Coordinator and Bob explained that as of yet there hasn't been. Jim felt the towns should move forward with the process as both towns chose an Economic Recovery Coordinator as a use for ARPA Funds.

Carol said that a group should be created to plan a Celebration of Life for Ed Bailey and noted that Lisa Irish offered to provide grief outreach for the community.

Donna Golub stated that Charter Revision should be a priority as the charter hasn't been looked at in over ten years.

Jim recently spoke with our Health Director and spoke about COVID guidance and what to do if exposed as well as the availability of home testing kits to be purchased at pharmacies.

First Selectman's Report

Bob reported that he met with the engineers working on the Lake Shore Drive bridge project. They will need to meet with neighbors of the bridge location once drawings have been completed to discuss easements on those properties.

In closing Bob asked if there were any questions or comments. Dave Lowry commented that he was so pleased that Jim Irish is taking the role of Selectman and was grateful that Al Rusilowicz would be staying on with the town as Finance Director.

Adjournment

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Jim Irish, 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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING SCHEDULE CALENDAR YEAR ~ 2022

The Board of Selectmen meets on the First Monday and Third Tuesday of each month at the Middlefield Community Center at 6:30 P.M., unless as dated below or otherwise noticed.

The following are the scheduled meeting dates:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|---|
| JANUARY | 3 rd 18 th | JULY | 16th 19th (Tuesday. The 4 th is a holiday.) |
| FEBRUARY | 7 th 22 nd (4 th Tuesday) | AUGUST | 1 st 16 th |
| MARCH | 7 th 22 nd (4 th Tuesday) | SEPTEMBER | 6 th (Tuesday. The 5 th is a holiday.) 20 th |
| APRIL | 4 th 19 th | OCTOBER | 3 rd 18 th |
| MAY | 2 nd 17 th | NOVEMBER | 1st 1 st 22 nd (4 th Tuesday) 15 th |
| JUNE | 6 th 21 st | DECEMBER | 5 th 20 th |

"This institution is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

393 Jackson Hill Road, Middlefield, CT 06455 Phone 860.349.7114

Fax 860.349.7115