

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Bob Yamartino called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Bob Yamartino, Carol Bufithis and Jim Irish were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Jim Irish, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

A member of the community, Peter, (last name was inaudible due to background noise in the recording) stated that he was disappointed with the lack of comment from the Board of Selectmen with regards to the closure of John Lyman School.

Discussion followed regarding funding for repairs and renovations to different school buildings.

Budget Update

The First Selectman's budget presented with a \$1.482M increase, much of which is attributed to the school budget. Bob noted revenue sources that hadn't been included in previous budgets such as new vehicle registrations as well as the State's proposed tax cap on assessments.

ARP Distribution Update

Bob reported that he has been in touch with the Plainville Southington Health District to assist in putting together bid packages for the Brookside Drive, King Road, and Lake Road Pumpstations. He has also been in contact with Pete Sibley of the Middlefield Housing Authority regarding the Leeching Fields project. The board is awaiting project proposals for the Community Services grants, and are looking to finalizing some of the other projects they have discussed.

MIRA – Contract Opt-Out

After review of the contract and exploring the alternatives, it was decided to opt-out of the MIRA “opt-out contract”

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to Opt-Out of the MIRA contract. Motion carried.

Racial Equity Statement

The Board reviewed the Racial Equity Statement that Carol has been working on. Bob and Jim agreed that the statement was a little succinct. The group discussed some instances of racial inequity and racist activities that have been happening in our community. The board agreed that Carol will work on the statement for review and approval at a future meeting.

New Business

- a. Infrastructure Grants (CTDOT/Federal)
 - i. Road Survey
 - ii. Culvert Survey
 - iii. Grant Writer / Grant Opportunity

Bob gave a brief overview of the Road Survey, stating that they have reviewed the findings and have an estimated cost and potential plan. The Culvert Survey shows that there is work to be done, unfortunately none of the culverts are eligible for funding with the Local Bridge Program. Jim noted that the town could potentially apply with RiverCog for a federal grant if one comes available. Finally, the board discussed the potential for keeping a grant writer on retainer to assist with looking for available grants that are applicable for projects needing attention in Middlefield.

- b. Boards and Commissions
 - i. Appointments
 - 1. Central Regional Tourism District: Middlefield Representative
 - a. Tim Burt – 1/1/22-12/31/25 – Reappointment
 - 2. Planning & Zoning
 - a. Jan Wojas – 1/1/22-12/31/24 – Reappointment 2/3
 - 3. Water Pollution Control Authority
 - a. Robert Monthei – 1/1/22-12/31/24 – Reappointment 2/3
 - 4. Board of Assessment Appeals
 - a. (Potential appointment)
 - 5. Estuary Transit District, Board of Directors
 - ii. Vacancies

Jim read the appointments into record. An alternate appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals was not necessary at this time.

Jim Irish made motion, second by Bob Yamartino, to approve the appointments as listed. Motion carried.

Bob Yamartino made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to appoint Jim Irish to the Board of Directors for the Estuary Transit District. Motion carried.

A letter has been sent out to the various boards and commissions asking for their recommendations to fill current and upcoming vacancies.

Selectmen / Selectwoman Report

- a. Affordable Housing Update
- b. Review of Information Regarding Potential for Having Live Broadcasts of BOS and other Town Committee/Commission Meetings

Bob explained that Middlefield must adopt an Affordable Housing Plan by the end of June. Tyche Planning & Policy Group worked to develop a report and presentation that will be shared at Public Hearing and submitted to the Board of Selectmen for final adoption.

Jim recommended the Neat Pad system and Bar setup with microphones and video equipment that could be mounted to a rolling rack to make it easy to move the system to other areas of the building and for locking storage. The board discussed the various equipment options, what would be appropriate, and approximate costs.

Tax Refunds

The list of tax refunds was read into record.

Bob Yamartino made motion, second by Jim Irish, to approve the tax refunds as attached. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Jim Irish 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 _____