

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Bob Yamartino called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Carol Bufithis, Jim Irish, and Bob Yamartino were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

It was noted that the Board & Commission Appointment Committee will be convening at 7:30PM to hold discussions with potential candidates. The agenda will be amended to accommodate this. The Board of Selectman meeting will pause and reconvene once the discussions with those candidates concludes.

Jim Irish 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 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- b. February 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Amend the February 22nd minutes to remove the final sentence under the Selectman/Selectwoman Report.

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the minutes of both the February 7 and February 22, 2022 Regular Meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.

Set date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting

The Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held Monday May 9, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Middlefield Community Center.

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to set the date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting. Motion Carried.

DMIAAB Capital Purchase

Bob explained that the Town of Durham is replacing their front-end loader. The trade in value of their 2014 Caterpillar 924K Wheel Loader came in at \$64,000.00. He stated that DMIAAB would like to acquire this loader from The Town of Durham. Both towns will be paying DMIAAB for their assistance with Storm Ida clean up, which will offset part of the cost of the loader. The remaining balance to offset Middlefield's total portion of purchase would be \$12,728.28.

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Jim Irish, to approve the DMIAAB Capital Purchase as attached with recommendation to fund from contingency. Motion carried.

ARP Distribution Update

Jen Huddleston provided a "Wish List" for the Giving Garden to cover various expenses. Bob Yamartino read the list into record.

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Jim Irish, to approve the release of \$5,000 ARP Funds for the Giving Garden to purchase items as attached. Motion carried.

Discussion continued around other ARP projects including the Brookside Drive pumpstation. Bob was happy to explain that the estimated cost for replacement came in considerably less than anticipated. A similar station is being looked at for King Road as well as a new grinder pump for Lake Road. Quotes will be reviewed for the Middlefield Housing Authority leaching fields and water well.

Lastly the board reviewed storage issues with the Food Bank, Kitchen, and Closet Areas at the Senior Center provided by Sue D'Orvilliers. It was decided best to approve funds be released for the reconfiguration of the Food Bank facilities.

Bob Yamartino made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the release of \$10,000 ARP Funds for the Middlefield Food Bank Grant for reconfiguration of facilities. Motion carried.

New Business

- a. Charter Revision Committee
Bob would like to authorize a Charter Revision Committee to make changes to our current charter. He asked that the Board review the current charter and draft versions that were created and not implemented to make recommendations as to what the charge of the commission should be.
- b. Grant Opportunity – Emergency Operations Center
Jim explained that a grant application was submitted to Rosa DeLauro's office as well as multiple letters that were written and submitted in support of grant approval for an Emergency Operation Center.
- c. RiverCOG teased discussion with CIRCA Resilient 2.0 UCONN
Jim will be attending this program where they will be looking at climate change and the effects of seawater rising and draught conditions when it comes to Hazard Mitigation. Robin Newton, Rob Poturnicki, Jerry Russ, and Jay Wickham will also attend the session.

Selectman/Selectwoman Report

- a. Boards and Commissions Appointments
Carol has been lining up potential appointees for the commission to meet with.
- b. Fair Housing Update
The Public Hearing was held where the report was reviewed. Bob noted that some verbiage may need to be adjusted for logistical purposes before final adoption in June.
- c. Review of information regarding potential for having live broadcasts of BOS and other Town Committee/commission meetings.
Jim reported that the equipment is on order and expects it to be delivered later in the week.
- d. Other
Bob noted that our Facebook page has launched and Cathy Hinsch will be the administrator.
Carol reported that the members of the Giving Garden would like to plant some Memorial Dogwood Trees and suggested possibly moving the dumpsters so that they could plant the trees on that side of the garden.
Jim noted that he is working with RiverCOG on a digitization project for town data to be digitized by Scan Optics.
Jim also met with Skip Tucker and Brendan Putney of Empire Paving, New England Asphalt, who did the polymer chip seal on Jackson Hill Road last year. They discussed options to repair/redo all of the roads at Lake Beseck. Discussion continued around the Lake Shore Drive culvert temporary repair to open the bridge.

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
Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____