

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

Minutes of the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting

There were technical difficulties with the recording and the first three items on the agenda were not recorded.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

*Carol Bufithis made a motion, seconded by Jim Irish, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comment

None.

Neglected Cemetery Program Grant Authorization

*Jim Irish made a motion, seconded by Carol Bufithis, that the Middlefield Board of Selectmen hereby affirm that Robert C. Yamartino, First Selectman, is duly authorized to apply for and administer the Neglected Cemetery Account Program Grant. By administer, Robert C. Yamartino, First Selectman, is authorized to sign notice of grant award and reimbursement request forms for the Neglected Cemetery Account Program grant.*

Bob Yamartino explained that they can apply for and receive funding to maintain old cemeteries. This grant is usually applied to the Burying Ground where headstones are restored and can be used for installation of fences, etc. The Historical Society typically supervises the expenditures. It is a requirement of the grant that the First Selectman be appointed the person with the authority to sign contracts and grant reimbursements.

Jim Irish asked who offers this grant and how much the town can apply for. Mr. Yamartino explained that they typically get between \$6,000 and \$7,000 and he believes it is through the State Historical Society. Carol Bufithis thought it was from the Preservation Trust Historical Society. Mr. Irish stated that the Preservation Trust has to do the survey before they can get money from FEMA.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

New Business

a. Town Blasting Protocol

Bob Yamartino reviewed that the town only receives a blasting permit request only once every several years. Historically, that information is not publicized as they really do not want spectators. There was event that happened in town in the past few weeks and Peter Tyc, the Fire Marshal, is completing his report. The State Police are continuing their investigation. Mr. Yamartino will share both reports with the board.

People have stated that they should have been notified and Mr. Yamartino felt that they could consider exactly what should be publicized. Carol Bufithis felt that many people don't look at the website and it would be better if a phone call was made with a message. She felt that people do need to be made aware. Mr. Yamartino noted that they have recently signed a contract to upgrade the website and part of that upgrade is a notification package. People in town can sign up for specific notifications. The new site should go live sometime in December or January. He added that any information posted to the website will be linked to social media as well. Everbridge can only be used for emergencies and a blast permit would not qualify as an emergency.

Jim Irish asked how people will be notified and Bob Yamartino noted that it will be by email or text. If someone has signed up for every board and commission, they will also get notice when an agenda or minutes are posted. They can also just sign up for specific boards and commissions. The Town Clerk will be posting the agendas.

The board left at this point to go to the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company EMT Recognition.

(Recording ended at this point and did not resume)

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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