

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

Minutes of the May 7, 2018 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM. Dave Burgess, Bob Yamartino and Edward Bailey were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

*Mr. Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to approve the agenda with the omission of item 5.a., approval of minutes of the March 5, 2018 special meeting as it was a joint meeting and there are no minutes. Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings

- A. March 20, 2018 Regular Meeting. *Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*
- B. April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting. These minutes were not available at this time.

Town & State Budget Update

Ed Bailey reported that the Democrats and Republicans have put out a budget for FY 2019 that eliminates the Governor's hold-backs on the ECS. There is apparently a bipartisan agreement on the budget. The transportation issue will probably be one of the biggest problems and that will directly affect whether the town receives TAR (town-aid road) funds. The town's LoCIP

payment has also been processed and should be available by the end of the month. He also reported that the legislature did not move tolls to a vote.

There was then discussion about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact regarding the presidential elections.

Mr. Bailey also reported that the Board of Finance had a public hearing last week and a budget was put forth. A town meeting will be held on May 14, 2018.

#### Update from Board of Education member Bob Yamartino regarding Board of Education

Bob Yamartino reported that the Board of Education has approved its budget at 0 percent which also incorporates \$400,000 for safety improvements, but does not specifically designate which improvements. He feels that it will cover an SRO and ballistic film for the windows, though that has not yet been confirmed. Mr. Bailey stated that he was asked by the commander at Troop F if he was going to be involved in the vetting process for an SRO.

Mr. Yamartino also reported that he made a motion to rescind the vote to close John Lyman School. He felt that the vote was taken prematurely and may not have even been a legal vote. Mr. Yamartino also reported that Jon Brayshaw has approached the Board of Education in an attempt to get the field house back under consideration. He will be proposing a more simple building that may be something that can be funded by the public. Mr. Bailey felt that this may be two or three years out. Mr. Yamartino reminded everyone that this issue has been voted down twice because it is not a priority. Mr. Bailey explained that Jon Brayshaw has about 10 people working on this project. The thought is to keep the foundation from deteriorating. Mr. Yamartino felt that the building is one issue, but then bathrooms and lights will be added. He also reminded everyone that the Board of Education budget is much tighter now and the money is harder to find for projects of this type.

Ed Bailey also reported that DMYFS did a survey of 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders which showed that about 14 or 15 percent of students do not have a strong adult figure in their life that they can confidently talk to. The rest have family or a teacher or coach, etc. Mr. Bailey felt that the SRO may be someone these students could approach.

#### Health District Progress Report and Process

Ed Bailey reported that he met with the town managers of Plainville and Southington as well as the director and two board members of the Plainville/Southington Health District last Friday and it looks like it will be a per capita rate of \$6.25 to \$6.75, totaling about \$27,000 to \$30,000 for Middlefield to be a part of the District. The Health District would also receive \$5,000 to \$6,000 in increased funding from the State. The Board expects the CEO of Middlefield to be on the board and would not want someone appointed to do that.

The Health District has about \$400,000 in cash reserves, with a budget of about \$700,000 and Middlefield would have to buy into that as a percentage. Mr. Bailey thinks that his original budget of \$50,000 will be just about right. Mr. Yamartino asked what they were reserving for and Mr. Bailey explained that it would be used in times of crisis, i.e. an epidemic, and also to buy new vehicles, etc.

Mr. Bailey will create a summary of services provided by the Health District to present at a Town Meeting. He did explain that fees will be a bit higher than they are now. Mr. Yamartino suggested that Mr. Bailey include in the summary that the liability shifts from solely the Town to the District. Mr. Burgess mentioned the number and quality of people performing services.

Mr. Bailey reiterated that the State of Connecticut is emphasizing regionalization and wants to put the dollars behind it. He thought that Plainville's population is around 12,000 and Southington is around 30,000. The District operates out of Southington in office space that is donated by the town. Mr. Bailey explained that the WPCA will continue to operate as is. All health records will be kept here in Middlefield and transactions will be processed in the Land Use Office. Mr. Bailey does feel that the Health District will streamline things and there will be faster turnarounds.

#### Town Procurement Policy Revisions

Ed Bailey had a draft of the policy and asked that the selectmen to settle on a number that they'd like to use. This information was derived from four other towns. Micro purchases range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. Purchases requiring two or three bids would range from a single source up to \$25,000. Requests for proposals would range from \$12,000 to \$25,000. Mr. Bailey felt that Clinton's numbers were fairly low, but East Haddam's numbers looked to be something that would work for Middlefield. This procurement policy would not impact any RFP pricing put out by the State of Connecticut or other organizations on behalf of municipalities.

Dave Burgess asked for examples of items that would fall under this policy and Mr. Bailey felt that the town doesn't buy a lot of items, but gave an example of replacing the curtains on the stage in the Community Center. Mr. Yamartino suggested putting in a phrase that all reasonable effort will be made to solicit three bids, with a memo to the file if three bids are not attained. Several other examples were discussed, including maintenance items. Ed Bailey also mentioned that the last purchasing policy was established in 1972.

Bob Yamartino felt that \$7,500 was a bit high, but \$20,000 was a bit low. Dave Burgess asked for other examples and Ed Bailey stated that the Town had just purchased \$8,000 worth of fireworks today, but there was only one contractor that they wanted to deal with. Mr. Bailey mentioned that asphalt, stone, gravel, salt, oil and vehicles are all State-bid contracts. Discussion continued about compromising between \$5,000 and \$7,500 and Bob Yamartino felt that they

should start at \$5,000 and readdress it, if necessary. It was generally agreed to go with \$5,000 and \$20,000. Mr. Bailey did explain that he has not asked the Board of Finance about this policy at this point, but he will present it to them for their comments. Mr. Yamartino suggested Mr. Bailey get a list of items from Al Rusilowicz that were purchased last year that were above \$5,000 but below \$7,500.

#### Tanko Lighting Audit Contract Approval

Mr. Bailey had forwarded the information from Tanko Lighting to Mr. Burgess and explained that the price of \$10,530 is a result of the RFP sent out by CCM. This is for 351 light fixtures, but that number may increase slightly. Mr. Bailey explained that this item has been included in the Board of Finance's budget for July 1<sup>st</sup>, however has agreed to start the job now with anticipation of payment after July 1<sup>st</sup>. This contract is just for the audit of the street lights and does not include any replacement. After collecting the data, Tanko will design the system to be installed and provide a financial analysis of the costs vs. savings. Tanko will also provide financing options. New lighting will provide better light coverage on the road and less spillage onto private property. Mr. Bailey also stated that no street lights have been turned off in Middlefield.

Ed Bailey also explained that Tanko had done the lighting in Meriden and suggested Dave Burgess look at the side street lighting there. Mr. Bailey also commented that Durham used Eversource for their lighting and he didn't like the lighting there.

***Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the contract dated January 24, 2018 with Tanko Lighting for Street Light Audit Project pending approval of the FY 2019 budget on May 14, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### SOLARIZE Connecticut Program Update - Workshop Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium

Ed Bailey explained that the workshop will be held in the auditorium on Thursday, May 17. Solar panels can only be installed on a fresh roof. The contractor is Ross Solar, but no one would be obligated to use that contractor. Ross Solar is paying for the workshops, mailings, signs and banners. The Town will have nothing to do with the contract which will be between the homeowner and Ross Solar. They will be offering better per kilowatt rates than normally offered.

#### Set date of Annual Town Budget Meeting, Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Community Center

Ed Bailey reported that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. There will be two items: to act on the Board of Finance

proposed budget and to elect two members to serve on the Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board (DMIAAB) for terms from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Bob Yamartino asked if they wanted to add election of a new Board of Education member to replace Nancy Boyle, but Ed Bailey wanted to put that off.

***Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to set the Annual Town Budget Meeting for Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### First Selectman's Report

Ed Bailey reported that Old Home Days is coming up on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with the parade starting at 1:00 PM. There will be food and music at Peckham Park from 2:00 PM until about 8:45 PM, when there will be fireworks.

The Memorial Day parade will be in Durham on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, stepping off at around 9:15 AM. Observances will be held on the Town Green in Middlefield at 8:00 AM. Wreaths will also be laid at the two cemeteries. There will be a ceremony on Durham's Town Green following the parade, with everything wrapping up around 11:30 AM.

Mr. Bailey also reported that new Resident Troopers have come on board, with Jim Bria coming in February and Alexander Cintron in April. They will do crowd control during the parade.

Mr. Bailey reported that he spent this morning at Troop F meeting the new commander, Eric Costa. He had a report of the number of service calls that have been requested from year to year. The second trooper was added in November, 2015. Mr. Burgess asked what Use of Force was and Mr. Bailey explained that that would be someone other than the trooper using force. Mr. Bailey pointed out that there have been no reports of gun shots in the last several years. Domestic disturbances have typically been repetitive. There have been no homicides or robberies. Burglaries appear down, but Mr. Yamartino mentioned the rash of car break-ins which Mr. Bailey stated would be considered larceny. Mr. Bailey explained that larceny is stolen property and burglary is someone breaking and entering. Larcenies are down, but stolen cars are up. There have been approximately three cars stolen since the beginning of the year. Traffic accidents have been pretty consistent and traffic stops are less, having only two people on duty vs. three.

Mr. Bailey felt that Middlefield probably has more issues than Durham does just because of having Route 66 running through town. Several burglaries occurred in houses close to Route 66. Mr. Bailey did explain that calls for service could have been listed for calls to the high school. Bob Yamartino asked how many times Middlefield's troopers actually respond to Durham

because they are understaffed, particularly in the off-shifts. He was just curious and was not trying to stir up trouble and Mr. Bailey stated he would try to provide that information. Discussion continued about instances when the Resident Trooper would respond to Durham.

Mr. Yamartino reiterated that he would like Ed Bailey to be part of the vetting process for the SRO and would want to see both Laura Francis and Mr. Bailey involved or neither of them. Mr. Bailey felt that the young age of the two Resident Troopers in Middlefield is an advantage and they could easily identify with the youth of the town. Mr. Yamartino felt that one of the problems for the youth is that there is not a lot for them to do.

Bob Yamartino had trouble with the school district building a field house when they can't even maintain the tennis courts at Memorial. Ed Bailey brought that issue up at his meeting with Dr. Veronesi last week and she will look into the maintenance issues there. Bob Yamartino described pickle ball for Dave Burgess and felt that one tennis court could be converted into four pickle ball courts. Mr. Yamartino noted that North Branford has tennis courts that are now striped for both tennis and pickle ball and have portable nets. This game is very popular with seniors, yet also very popular with the youth in the community. Mr. Bailey hoped that the district would partner with the town to create the pickle ball courts.

Bob Yamartino stated that the Board of Education has an estimate of \$45,000 in their capital plan to resurface the tennis courts at Memorial which he felt was high, particularly since the town has a paving machine. Mr. Yamartino felt that the pros include the proximity for the seniors and having complete control over having it available for town residents only. Hannah Malcolm will get some pricing and Mr. Bailey agreed that the town needs to utilize the space. He stated that the school uses the courts only about four weeks of the year and those courts would also be available for the summer program. Mr. Yamartino asked if they wanted people who are not school-related to be on the tennis courts while school is in session and it was felt that that would be up to the schools to decide.

There was then some discussion about scheduling of the courts and having courts at Peckham Park as well. If the courts were at Peckham, anyone in the state could use the courts. Ed Bailey mentioned that there are also courts over near Cuginchaug and at Wesleyan that are available. Mr. Yamartino also explained that Vinny Cahill agreed to do all of the grading if new courts were installed near the bocce courts and horseshoe pits, but Mr. Bailey would like to spend the money on something that already exists rather than building something else to have to maintain. Mr. Yamartino did feel that everything would get more use if they were all located together. He also noted that a pickle ball league has already informally started at Black Bird. He has also reached out to Lyman Farm and Black Bird about refreshments for a kick-off party. Bob Yamartino would like to see each board and commission field a team or two to compete in a tournament on opening day.

Adjournment

***Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
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