Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. Bob Yamartino and Dave Burgess were present, with Bob Yamartino absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Ed Bailey added item 12a to the agenda to rescind the appointment of Marianne Corona to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District.

*Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comment

Troy Donahue, 20 Lake Road, wanted to check on the status of his driveway repair that was supposed to be done at the end of last month. Ed Bailey reported that they have been stymied because of logistics and the weather. They had intended to repair it last week, but that did not happen because of the weather. Mr. Bailey hoped that it will be done this week, but could not provide a firm date. He will ask the road foreman to call Mr. Donahue. Mr. Burgess asked Mr. Bailey to give Mr. Donahue a call if it was going to be more than a couple of weeks.

Ernestine Holloway reported that she spoke to children at the Durham Fair and they all told her that they would rather be in school together when they are younger than in separate programs. The children said they would not have a problem with one program, but their parents would. Ed Bailey stated that the group of high school students that attended the community engagement session said the same thing. Dave Burgess agreed that it was important to ask the kids how they felt. Mrs. Holloway worried that this is how gangs are formed, with one school vs. another. She noted that she spoke to about 200 kids at the Fair and they feel that the arguments between the
parents are stupid. Mrs. Holloway also stated that the kids in the district are wonderful and articulate and that the district is doing great education-wise, but are causing trauma emotionally. She summarized by stating that children are all of our children and that they are getting a good education here. Mr. Burgess and Mr. Bailey thanked her for her comments. Mr. Burgess also felt that it was important that the Board of Education hear from the students. Mrs. Holloway continued to discuss her past and how education was for her. She would also like to talk to the First Selectman off the record about the community center. She suggested that a disclaimer be put stating that the Community Center does not endorse any candidate. She will call Mr. Bailey in the morning.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings

A. August 21, 2018 Regular Meeting
B. September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting

*Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to table the approval of the minutes from August 21, 2018 and September 4, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.*

Health District - Town Meeting Results and Update

Ed Bailey reported that the joining the Health District was approved at the Town Meeting and they have since received approval of the $15,000 grant from the State of Connecticut. Mr. Bailey hopes that the transition to the Health District will start sometime around November 1st. Lee Vito will stay on to help with the transition. Mr. Bailey hopes to have it fully wrapped up by the end of December.

Common Good Garden Ad Hoc Committee

Ed Bailey reported that they are working on a water supply for the garden and Lee Vito is checking into an abandoned well. The company that is donating the drip irrigation system felt it would be much easier to connect to the well on the hill. If it were to be hooked up to a potable water system, backflow preventers and application to the State would become necessary.

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

Bob Yamartino was not present at tonight’s meeting.
Highway Union Contract Approval

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to amend the agenda to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy for collective bargaining. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy for collective bargaining. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Selectmen entered Executive Session at 7:26 PM and returned at 8:21 PM. No motions or decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Ed Bailey made a motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to approve the Highway Labor Contract, effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Burgess stated that the Town and the union have both agreed to the contract and he will honor it because of that agreement.

Meriden Road (Route 66) Repaving Program - Update

Ed Bailey reported that they are a little bit behind on Route 66 and it should have been completed about a week ago. It is marked out for final striping.

SOLARIZE Connecticut Program Update - Program Ended

Ed Bailey reported that the program ended September 20th and the last he heard, there were up to about 95 responses. He thought there were approximately 16 contracts. Dave Burgess explained the process thus far on his house and commented that he was surprised there were so many approvals necessary. Mr. Bailey also commented that Middlefield has four times the number of participants than the next town.

Tax Refunds - Approval

Ed Bailey had a list of tax refunds that have been requested. Dave Burgess read the names and amounts into the record (as per attached).

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the tax refunds, as attached. Motion carried unanimously.
Middlefield Board of Selectmen Minutes  
October 1, 2018  
Page 4  

Rescind Appointment of Marianne Corona to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District  

Ed Bailey reviewed that Marianne Corona had been appointed to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District at the last meeting. There is a section in the Town’s code regarding the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency which says that the Selectman’s representative of the Middlesex Soil Conservation District shall be an *ex officio* member of the Agency. Mr. Bailey received a mass resignation of the Inland Wetlands Commission because of this. He was not aware that the conservation district had changed their name. The members of the Inland Wetlands Commission were not happy with having Marianne Corona as an *ex officio* member as they did not feel they could work well with her. Mr. Burgess asked if it was the entire commission, but Mr. Bailey was not sure though it was enough people to cause him concern. Mr. Bailey does not feel it was political in nature and he did have four different people come to him about it. There are seven members on the Commission with one alternate.

Ed Bailey reiterated that he did not know that the conservation district had been renamed and he would not have put Mrs. Corona’s name forward had he realized that. Dave Burgess suggested that the Inland Wetland members put their concerns in writing and the Board of Selectmen could vote on it. He felt that that would take Ed Bailey out of the situation and the Board would not have to vote on hearsay. Mr. Bailey did not disagree, but felt that the Board made an appointment and the Board can withdraw it at will. He reminded Mr. Burgess that these are not employee, but volunteers, and may not want to be put on the spot.

It was agreed to table this issue until the next meeting.

Selectman’s Report  

Ed Bailey reported that he attended a full-day conference in Portland about Connecticut Water Sustainability that was put on by the Department of Public Health, Board of Drinking Water Section, and the Public Utility Regulatory Authority. The State has a statewide water plan that they will put into effect because of the drought two years ago. He felt that the State will be passing legislation to help with conservation. He also noted that the amount of sewage collected in Middlefield has slowly declined over the last 20 years. New houses and newer plumbing fixtures use less water.

Mr. Bailey also spent two Fridays at a training on courageous conversations and equity training. A group discussing racial matters in the towns of Durham and Middlefield have met with legislators as well as school administrators. That discussion went beyond race and included LGBT issues as well. There had been an incident in Middletown where a student from Durham/Middlefield who was attending the Vo-Ag program prominently displayed a Confederate flag on his vehicle which created a lot of conflict. The State Education and
Resource Center held a program called Equity in Education: Transforming Education, making it available and equal to all segments of society. Training was provided and was attended by Mr. Bailey, Laura Francis, Dr. Veronesi, the principals of all the schools and various members of the administration along with some teachers and counselors. The program was hosted by the Independent Day School. One of the interesting lessons was the history of the Confederate flag which means different things to different people. A lot of the training centered around race issues. Mr. Bailey believes that all students in the district are treated equally and there is no racial divide in the schools. The towns of Durham and Middlefield lack diversity, but not intentionally. Middletown is very balanced. Mr. Burgess described his experiences in the Frog Hollow neighborhood of Hartford.

Mr. Burgess also suggested that Mr. Bailey speak with Marianne Corona about rescinding her appointment.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First
REQUEST FOR REFUNDS TO BE APPROVED BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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PRIOR YEAR 01-01-4005

Anne L. Olszewski  
Middlefield Certified Tax Collector

“This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.”