

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting: REVISED

Revision noted in italics

Call to Order

Ed Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Ed Bailey, Dave Burgess, and Bob Yamartino were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Dave Burgess made a motion, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings

May 6th, 2019 Regular Meeting:

Bob Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Ed Bailey, to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting dated May 6th, 2019, as presented. Dave Burgess abstained as he was absent from the last meeting. Motion carried.

FY20 Budget Review of Adopted Budget

Mr. Bailey stated that Al Rusilowicz would be printing the new budget. It was mentioned that the board of finance would be meeting tonight to set the Mil Rate.

Regional School District 13 Update

Bob Yamartino reported that there was nothing significantly new to discuss.

Appointments

Lake Beseck Ad Hoc Committee:

Ed Bailey read into record the purpose of the Lake Beseck Ad Hoc Committee and named the following individuals to be appointed:

Rebecca Adams, Edward Bailey, Randy Bernotas, Jim Irish, Melissa Kowal, Kathy Kukowski, Craig Lundell, Scott MacDonald, Hannah Malcolm, Darin Overton, Amy Poturnicki, Rob Poturnicki, and Richard Santos. Advisors are Dick Boynton and Pete Parker of Public works.

Ed Bailey made motion, Second by Bob Yamartino to approve appointments. Motion carried

First Selectman's Report

Ed Bailey reported that he's been working with the Plainville – Southington Health district on contract negotiations as the employees of the district want to become Unionized. There was some discussion regarding vaccinations for children.

Ed explained that he is awaiting a lease presentation from SBA Communications for Emergency Equipment on the tower. In April a structural analysis was completed and passed. He stated that this has been a very lengthy process.

Ed handed out a sample Pavement Analysis regarding road repairs. He went on to explain that he plans to have the Town Engineer complete a similar evaluation to determine the cost to improve the roads. Regular road maintenance and upkeep will continue during this process.

At this time the Selectman's meeting was recessed to open the public hearing.

******Recess for Public Hearing: Review and discuss an Amendment to the Code of the Town of Middlefield Tax Ordinance Section 390-14******

Public Hearing

Mr. Bailey opened the public hearing and explained that at the previous Board of Selectman meeting it was approved to send this proposed amendment to be sent to Public Hearing.

Dave Burgess read into record a letter from Cheryl Pizzo on behalf of the Middlefield Democratic Town Committee which was in favor of the amendment.

Anne Olszewski spoke as both the tax collector and a tax payer on this amendment. She suggested adding a date of May 1st under letter "C" stating that there is a lot of documentation to complete by the Assessor and setting a date by which the list is presented would give the assessor ample time.

Bob Fowler said that it is a timely process to compile the data needed to determine which members qualify and then allow each member to review their final numbers for any discrepancies.

Anne Olszewski continued by asking for clarification under section B, where it states new members must complete one full year of service to qualify. She asked if probation was included in this time frame or is this after probation. It was explained that probation is not factored in.

Anne then went on to question section "B" regarding qualifying by attending 25% of all emergency calls. She inquired if this 25% should include meetings and drills also stating that a member could essentially not attend meetings and drills and still qualify. It was explained that members are required to attend a certain number of meetings. Anne then asked for clarification on section "D" where the word "excuses" is crossed out in line 1 and replaced with absences she asked if the word excuses on the second line should also be changed to absences. Ed Bailey explained that the changes made were worded to be consistent with Section 390-20.

Mary Johnson commented that she is in favor of this ordinance and felt that this is a good way to show support for the members.

Anne Olszewski questioned why the minimum years of service to be qualified in the abatement was set to 15 years. Pete Tyc and Jay Wickham both clarified details about being an active member and meeting the eligibility requirements. Anne then requested that when the department presents her with the listing of members, she would need to know how many years of service each member completed and who had retired.

Steve Tyc requested that the words "remain a resident and" in section F be struck.

At 7:16PM Ed Bailey closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Ed Bailey, seconded by Bob Yamartino, to close the hearing and resume the selectman's meeting. Motion carried.

Ordinance Revision – Property Tax Relief for retired Firefighters

Ed Bailey suggested to adopt the Proposed Town Ordinance as written with the exception of Section F, remove the words “remain a resident and”. Also, in section C, add “not later than May 1st” at the end of the section.

Bob Yamartino made motion, seconded by Dave Burgess, to adopt the Proposed Town ordinance to be acted upon at a Town Meeting; date to be determined; with the changes noted. Motion carried.

Bob Yamartino commented that he fully supports this ordinance and thanked our firefighters for all they do. Ed Bailey agreed and stated that he was glad this ordinance is getting done for the firefighters.

Giving Garden Update

Jen Huddleston was present to update the board. The group would like to bring in honey bees because they have a “pollinator row” that is about 85 feet long that will contain perennial flowers that will attract bees and butterflies. Allan Poole, who lives in town, is a master bee keeper and has offered to tend the hive. There was some discussion about possible bee stings which could be a concern if someone is allergic. *Dave Burgess* suggested they might want to check with the town attorney and have some emergency equipment such as an epi-pen and perhaps some signage about the bees. Jen did say that she had visited other gardens in the area that have bees and they even teach people about bee keeping. Ed Bailey suggested possibly putting the deer fence around the bees or possibly putting the hive across the street at the Town Hall.

Jen did ask about a proposed outdoor sink on the side of the shed. There was a discussion about draining the sink to the storm drain as they don't intend to use soap or chemicals, the sink would be strictly used for rinsing vegetables, equipment and hands. *Dave Burgess* suggested possibly digging a dry well.

First Selectman's Report: continued

Ed Bailey explained that he was going forward with the road analysis. He stated that we currently spend about \$275K on major road maintenance but that we have quite a bit of retiring debt in the town budget so this along with funds from the state will help to offset the cost. A preliminary engineering plan needs to be developed so that we can repair some of the heavily traveled roads after applying to the state. Also, Ed explained a study will be done of our culverts to determine if they are in need of repair.

Ed mentioned that the LED street light project is moving along. Hopefully within a month he'll have a proposal that the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman can act on and then bring it to Town meeting.

Mr. Bailey said that he attended a year end wrap up meeting of the Durham & Middlefield local wellness coalition where they had a presentation by the "EDGE" students that was very well done.

Adjournment

Bob Yamartino 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 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Hogan

Tonya Hogan
Assistant Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____

