

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the June 1, 2020 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Ed Bailey, Carol Bufithis, and Bob Yamartino were present.

Approval of Agenda

Amend the agenda to remove item 6

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Bob Yamartino, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. May 19, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Minutes were not available at the time of the meeting.

COVID-19 Update

Ed reported that as of last Friday May 29th, Middlefield cases were at 16, an increase of 1. No deaths have been reported in town. Businesses were allowed to begin reopening on May 20th and links to Health Department Guidance have been made available on our town website as well as necessary forms for businesses. New gathering numbers have been announced allowing for 10 people to gather indoors and 25 outdoors for social and recreational gatherings. A meeting was held with the Health District, First Selectmen from Durham and Middlefield, as well as Park and Recreation directors from Middlefield, Plainville, and Southington to discuss reopening of all park activities. Our playscape, skate park, and basketball courts will be

reopening as well as the fields will be open for practice but not games at this time. Our beach is open as well and about 30-40 people enjoyed the beach this past weekend.

Ed went on to share the types of businesses that will be allowed to reopen during Phase 2 starting June 20th. Some of those businesses include amusement parks, bowling alleys, gym and fitness studios, libraries, nail salons, tattoo parlors, and theaters. Guidance is being provided with specific criteria for business operations.

Discussion continued around statewide and nationwide cases, hospitalizations, and death rates due to COVID as well as the availability of PPE.

Ed explained that all town staff are returning to regular business hours. He met with Town Hall and Community Center staff to explain operations going forward while the buildings remain closed to the public. A shared calendar has been created to set appointments for people who can not be serviced by other means and need to enter the building. Most interactions have been very limited and some business has been conducted in the parking lot. Sign in sheets have been created to assist in contact tracing. The form also asks the visitor to attest that they haven't been ill or experienced any symptoms of COVID as well as confirming they have not travelled outside of the US in the last 14 days.

A walkup window will be created for tax collection for those who can't or prefer not to pay by mail. The window is an existing one in the Town Hall "Conference/ Lunch Room. An insert has been included with the tax bills to encourage residents to pay by mail, online, or via the existing drop box. Ed went on to review the COVID-19 Tax Deferment and Interest Rate Reduction Program Info that has been made available on our website along with the necessary forms.

Revised resolution regarding Old Indian Trail – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Emergency Power Generator Program

Ed explained that a previous resolution had been made for a Loan Grant Program in the amount \$20,000.00 and after discussion with the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section regarding this Loan Grant Program it was thought best to increase the amount to \$25,000.00 for protection in the event the project went over budget.

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Bob Yamartino, to approved the attached resolution. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding a Town Meeting for the Election of member of the Board of Education and DMIAAB

Mr. Bailey detailed his plan to hold the Town Meeting at the Pavilion at Peckham Park. The pavilion is handicap accessible and a tent will be set up adjacent to the pavilion in the event of inclement weather. Chairs will be provided and spaced out appropriately under the tent. The meeting isn't expected to take long and the date and time will be determined at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

L.E.D. Streetlight Conversion Update

The project has been completed and came in under budget. Some of the fixtures at the park will need modification as they are too dark. Ed demonstrated the "Report a Streetlight Issue" Quick Link button on our town website.

RSD-13 Update

Bob began his update stating that the Board of Education unanimously approved the net zero budget for the next fiscal year. An announcement was made that traditional in person Summer School will not be taking place this year and will be conducted via distance learning.

When the board approved the budget Bob asked if there would be enough funds in the budget to carry out the mission of the schools next year and the response he heard is that if we were to return to "Pre-COVID" classroom teaching there will be enough money, in the event distance learning remains in place there would still be enough in the budget. However, if we are told that students must return to in person learning following the proposed guidelines set forth by the State that we will not have nearly enough funds to manage it. Bob noted a few other budgetary issues including the loss of revenue as well as the increased use of the lunch program. He then described some of the suggestions put forward on how the schools might handle in person learning and how incredibly difficult it will likely be to follow the proposed guidelines.

Bob also explained the Graduation/ End of the School Year Parade that will take place for all of the students in Middlefield and Durham. Due to the social gathering restrictions High School Graduation is likely to be held virtually.

First Selectman's Report

Ed reported that the Presidential Preference Primary has been moved to August 11th and discussed the initial plan to keep everyone safe at the polls including providing hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and social distancing. He also said that plexiglass shields will be in place for poll workers. Ed pointed out that the number of voters who are eligible to vote in a primary are less than half of the total number of registered voters, meaning fewer people at the polls. Ed said he is also exploring a change of voting venue for the general election in November. He has been working to procure PPE for town staff, residents, and businesses on a daily basis.

The Board of Finance will be holding their special meeting to approve the Town Budget on Monday, June 8th with a Mill Rate of 32.23. Ed noted that we won't likely see large surpluses in the budget as we have seen in the past and felt that the costs associated with COVID won't likely hit us in the next fiscal year, it will likely carry over to Fiscal Year 2022. He said that we have received our Town Aid Road Money as well as ECS funding and is just waiting for the Town Projects Grant funds to come in which usually arrive at the end of June. Ed asked if anyone had other questions or comments and Bob spoke about the DMIAAB meeting held last week. Bob stated that at the meeting the board of DMIAAB adopted the increased sticker fee to \$50.00 for residents. He said that he heard the board discussed increasing the commercial sticker fee to

\$100.00 but no decision was made on that item. Bob heard the board is working out how to identify commercial trucks and Bob said the workers could easily check the vehicle registration to determine sticker type. Bob went on to say that he was disappointed that no decision was reached on commercial stickers. He stated that during a joint meeting held with the Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance of both Durham & Middlefield it was unanimously proposed that the commercial fee be increased to \$125.00 and Bob felt that this information was not properly communicated to the DMIAAB board.

Discussion continued around the sticker fee and then moved on to the likely hood that most future meetings will take place via zoom at least into September.

Adjournment

Bob Yamartino 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
Assistant Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____

TOWN of MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT



Office of the First Selectman

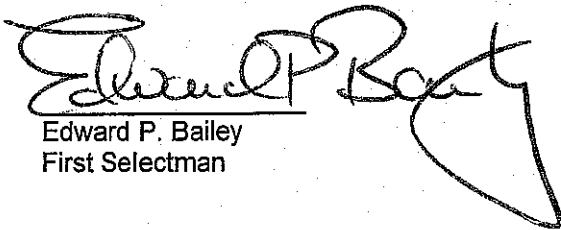
June 1st, 2020

Resolution by the Board of Selectmen, Town of Middlefield, CT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section has made available funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Emergency Generator Program and that the Town of Middlefield owns and operates a Public Water System known as Old Indian Trail (ID: CT0820501).

RESOLVED, the Board of Selectmen, approves funding in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 (twenty five thousand dollars) with regard to the Old Indian Trail Water System for the purpose of the installation of an emergency generator, propane storage, related electrical systems and fencing, in accordance with standards set forth by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section .

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Edward P. Bailey, as First Selectman of the Town of Middlefield, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middlefield and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.


Edward P. Bailey
First Selectman

Robert Yamartino
Selectman

Carol Buffthis
Carol Buffthis
Selectman