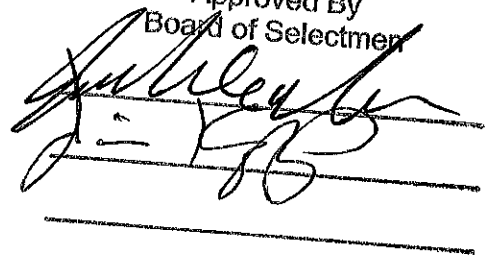


Town of Middleton
Board of Selectmen Meeting

November 9th, 2020

Approved By
Board of Selectmen



Called to order at 6:30 P.M

BOS Members Present: J. Knapp, J. Varga, J. Hotchkiss

Pledge Recited

Signature Action:

- J. Varga moves to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes dated 10/26/2020 as written. J. Knapp seconds, all in favor.

New Business:

J. Hotchkiss asks if he may address the meeting. J. Hotchkiss reads his resignation from BOS after 9 years due to 3 concerns regarding the other board members.

R. Keegan asks what the next steps in the process are now. J. Varga states that had J. Hotchkiss talked with him he would have been informed that the 11/5/2020 meeting was to be voided as there was an apparent miscommunication.

J. Varga states they are not having meetings on the side, and if he wants to talk about holding meetings outside the public eye, J. Hotchkiss and J. Knapp had a meeting with Highway Dept. earlier in the spring where it was agreed to give them two weeks off without J. Varga input. States meetings have been properly posted with 24hr notices. Will be looking for selectmen to fill in until March Election 2021.

M. Knapp asks now with only two selectmen are we able to continue moving forward with any decisions regarding any departments. J. Varga and J. Knapp state yes because two selectmen can make decisions. Lengthy discussion regarding how it will work with two selectmen ensues.

J. Knapp makes motion to void 11/5/2020 meeting and revisit decisions. J. Varga seconds, all in favor.

Salt Shed – R. Washburn has requested adding on a pole barn to park the loader in. Moody builders would be able to add it on as they are working on the salt shed now. R. Keegan asks what we have left in account for salt shed. J. Varga states about \$18,500 but need \$23,000. R. Keegan asks if the funds can be taken out of block grant. J. Varga states he does not believe this is possible based on how the warrant article is written. R. Keegan asks where does that leave the budget with the highway department because of the overage with the overtime and such. J. Varga states that is where we could use some of the fund from the \$40,000 that we received. Lengthy discussion continues about where to put the money on those lines.

J. Varga states that the budget committee brought to their attention earlier in the year that the way the town pays for the septic systems was not correct. Looking at using \$12,000 from funds the town received, split evenly among the highway department repair fund and OTH repair fund, and then \$6,000 from the fire department repair fund to use to pay for septic. J. Varga states that we will be approx. \$10,000 over tonnage due to the change. Would like to take \$15,000 put towards the highway department OT line, and the remaining \$4,000 towards the highway department on call line.

M. Knapp asks if the pole barn is added on now, will it save the town money in the long run instead of having it done later on down the road. J. Varga states that is the basics of it. J. Varga states the highway department is happy to be getting this. J. Knapp states that just construction wise and with everyone already down there it just makes more sense to do it now.

R. Keegan asks about bids regarding the salt shed where it is stated on the agenda. Questions if they have already been accepted as that's the way it sounds. J. Varga states its more of the proposals from the contractors already working at the salt shed, and bids was probably the wrong word to use.

Back to the money town received. J. Varga states \$4,000 to on call, \$15,000 to OT line, \$10,000 to tonnage and \$6,000 each to OTH and highway repair for septic for a total of \$41,000. J. Varga makes motion to split funds, J. Knapp seconds, all in favor.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Nothing

Police Department – 32 incidents, 28 MV stops, 3 arrests. All 3 arrests were domestic violence related, and resulted in multiple charges. Felony Domestic Violence, Aggravated Felonious Assault, Strangulation with additional charge of false imprisonment. Domestic Violence assault, with additional charge of domestic violence criminal threatening, obstructing report of a crime, motor vehicle theft, driving with a suspended license. Domestic Violence Assault, with additional charge of domestic violence mischief.

Highway – moving sand from kings highway to ridge road. Working at ridge road putting in blocks. Can Brothers supposed to start paving 11/10

Zoning – Issues with zoning. J. Varga will be taking over with J. Hotchkiss leaving BOS. Will be meeting with Zoning board to get outstanding issues resolved.

Treasurer – Nothing

Cemetery – Nothing. Can be removed

Assessing – Nothing

ACO – Total of 9 calls. 6 dog related, 1 cat related, 1 fox issue, 1 abandoned rooster. Rooster has been rehomed, paid for out of ACO pocket so it was not taken from budget line. States that regardless if it was a rooster, it is against the law to dump any animal just anywhere. Animal Cruelty case that has been worked on for over a year now, defendant was sentenced on 9/15/2020. He has been banned from owning any domestic and/or farm animals. Will not serve any jail time, but has 1-3 suspended for 7 years. On probation for 3 years.

Welfare – Been pretty quiet. Had 1 client

Emergency Management – Nothing.

School Board – Having meeting soon. Have not gotten new date as typical day falls on holiday.

Health Officer – 3 – 4 Cases going on. Too many unregistered cars in the driveway. There is a town ordinance that states that you are not allowed to have more than 2 unregistered vehicles on your property. A few notices sent out to residents regarding trash all over yard.

Planning Board – Nothing to report. Meeting on 11/12/2020.

Code Enforcement – Couple new houses and a garage.

Fire/EMS – Fairly slow. EMR class to finish this week. Testing will be in January.

Rec Committee – Huge kudos to all the volunteers that came out to the Halloween event. Thanks to Andrea for decorating the ambulance. Looking forward to doing something for Christmas. Wednesday 11/10 at the OTH they will be doing a display for the town. Have had about 7 to 8 people reach out that are interested in helping out with the recreation committee in the future.

J. Varga states that the town has received a bill from the Town of Milton for 8 call to their ambulance. The bill totals \$4,000. This is something that we the town has never agreed to. Still holding firm that we will be contacting legal about this. To his knowledge they are unable to bill the town and the patient. Will be looking more in depth. Chief Bourdeau states that aside from the money you have to take into consideration the quality of care that you're receiving. States speaking with chiefs around the area, they have either been in similar situations and have rectified the issue or they are continuing to pay other towns for their ambulance service. J. Varga states he will be making phone calls this week looking into other places. Chief Bourdeau states that he was informed by Milton that they sent these letters in regards to billing towns for the use of their ambulances. Stated that the other towns BOS got right back to them to work something out, but that they never heard from the BOS of Middleton. J. Varga states that is correct. Lengthy discussion on why this hasn't been taken care of and possible ways to fix it. Discussion and explanation on how per diem works between Chief Bourdeau and R. Keegan.

M. Knapp asks what would happen if we sold our ambulance. The money that we would get for our ambulance could go to surrounding towns to pay for transport. Chief Bourdeau not sure. T. Jones states that would be more like a band-aid because that money will eventually run out and at the end of the day an emergency isn't a planned and can happen at any time. J. Varga states if we got rid of the ambulance right now, and used that to pay surrounding towns we would probably save money. Lengthy discussion on selling ambulance, mutual aid and what can be done continues.

J. Varga motions to adjourn. J. Knapp seconds, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Blaney, Deputy Administrative Assistant