

Town of Middleton

182 Kings Highway, Middleton, New Hampshire 03887



Approved By
Board of Selectmen

Middleton Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

June 06, 2022

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan
Christine Maynard

Call to Order at 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer

Roll Call: Present: Roxanne Tufts-Keegan – Chair, Christine Maynard – Vice-Chair, Mike Boisvert

Guest Speaker:

- Sheriff Brave had been invited to speak at this Board meeting regarding the possibility of the Strafford County Sheriff's Department offering services to supplement the Police Department resources. He stated he could provide rate information and discussed a temporary solution for coverage over the next one to two months while our Police Department obtains staffing to replace the two officers that recently left. In addition, questions were asked about State Police coverage. Sheriff Brave mentioned that many law enforcement agencies were greatly understaffed at this time. After much discussion the Sheriff and other guests left after receiving thanks from several folks. The Board said that they would review the information provided by the Sheriff and other guest speakers.

Approval of Minutes:

- May 23, 2022
 - *Christine motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Roxanne, Mike abstained, and the motion carried.*

Signature Action:

- Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Located off Kings Highway, May 19, Lot 10. *Christine made a motion to approve the notice, seconded by Roxanne and the motion carried.*

Public Comment:

- Discussion held regarding the budget cuts that had been made to multiple departments this year. For questions regarding how the cuts were made please talk to the Budget Committee and they can be addressed at their meeting (next meeting 6/20/22). A question was asked and answered about the first 2022 tax bill and whether it had been impacted by the cuts. The 2nd tax bill will reflect those cuts. More Police department discussion ensued, and it was stated that defunding the department was not being considered. Chief Cooper offered that hiring new officers is dictated by the Police Academy and that there is a big checklist to follow in that process. Further discussion of the Police Department staffing was tabled until the end of the meeting.
- A thank you note from the wife of the man that Chief Cooper and Sgt. Swift performed CPR on until the Milton Ambulance arrived was read at the meeting. Thanks and appreciation were extended to both Chief Cooper and Sgt. Swift.

Old Business:

- Selectmen tabled discussion of the Fire Department expenses and where the cost will come from.

New Business:

- The request for the Fire Department and Highway Department GOFERR funds (as discussed at the last board meeting) was submitted on Friday, June 3, 2022.
- Broadband Infrastructure Grant – ARPA funds
- Water testing has not been performed for some time and there are still signs up in the buildings saying not to drink the water. New tests will need to be taken.
- Notice given that officers Hunter Roy had resigned from the Police Department along with Officer James Saltzman.
- *A motion to post the position of Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper as a 40-hour week was made and seconded, and the motion carried.*
- It was stated that Chief Cooper has received a memo stating that he was responsible for providing coverage for those shifts impacted by the departure of Officers Roy and Saltzman. *Selectmen Maynard motioned for Chief Cooper to fill the open positions. Selectman Boisvert seconded the motion and the motion carried.*
- The meeting attendance policy was discussed and stated that Town Employees who are on duty are not free to go to meetings. *A motion was made and seconded stating the Department Head, if on duty, needs to provide their report prior to the Selectmen's Board Meeting held the second Monday of each month. The motion carried.*
- Town Vehicle Policy states that town owned vehicles are to be used for official business purposes. This applies to all department vehicles, EMS, Highway, and Fire. *Selectmen Maynard made a motion to update the Town Vehicle Policy to include this information, Selectman Boisvert seconded the motion and the motion carried.* To clarify the intent of this motion, if the town employee is On Call or On Duty they are allowed to bring the car home or if the situation warrants they may leave the town to obtain food.
- Next discussed was approving the hiring of another Officer. Selectman Boisvert asked if we would be hiring one or two officers. *A motion by Selectman Maynard to post both open positions was seconded by Selectman Boisvert and the motion passed.*

Public Comment:

- After the Board stated that town employees who wear a uniform are not allowed to wear them to the Board meetings, a lengthy discussion resulted in rescinding this policy. *Selectman Maynard brought the motion which was seconded by Selectman Boisvert, and the motion carried.*

Adjourn: *Christine motioned, Mike seconded and all approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM*

Next Board of Selectmen Meetings:

June 27, 2022

July 11, 2022

July 25, 2022

Other Upcoming Meetings:

ARPA Committee – July 6th (1st Wed)

Conservation Committee – June 14th (2nd Tue)

School Board – July 13th (2nd Wed)

Planning Board – June 15th (2nd Thu)

Budget Committee – June 20th (3rd Mon)