

Town of Middleton  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Called to order at 6:59pm.

BOS Members Present: Joseph Varga, Michael Boisvert

Pledge Recited

Selectman Varga states we are here to hold interviews for the open Selectman's position and understands that it maybe awkward to sit facing the audience, but feels it's the best way to answer everyone. Selectman Varga states this meeting is open to the publics questions and comments.

Public Input:

C. Mattocks states he has lived in town since 2004, is a local attorney. He thinks a lot is going on in town that doesn't make sense and he has some ideas on how to fix it. Also states that he has a lot of things going on and is not planning to run for Selectman in March.

J. Melanson states he has lived in town all his life and owns his own business. This is his second time applying for the Selectman's position. Also states he would like to help the town and has some different plans and ideas.

L. Britten states he has owned a home in town since 1992 and has been living full time for over a year. He was a police lieutenant in Massachusetts and is a disabled Air Force Veteran. Also states he has some ideas that could be useful to the town.

R. Tufts-Keegan states she has only ever seen C. Mattocks at meetings. Mentions that the Selectman's position takes up a lot of time and asks the candidates if they have the time that is needed to put into the position. C. Mattocks answers that he works for himself so he is able to commit the time to the position in the six month interim. J. Melanson answers that he owns his own business and can make the time to commit to the position. L. Britten answers that he has nothing but time to commit to the position. R. Tufts-Keegan asks Selectman Varga and Selectman Boisvert what is the average time the position requires. Selectman Varga responds this is actually one of the questions we had for the candidates and asked the candidates how much time weekly the BOS position requires. J. Melanson responds he believes it takes about 20 hours a week. L. Britten responds he believes it takes about 40 hours a week with everything said and done. C. Mattocks responds he believes it takes 15 hours physically a week, but it never stops. Selectman Boisvert answers the question stating whatever you put into the position is what you are going to get out of it. He states it's a full time position and that physically, mentally and emotionally it takes a toll on you. Selectman Varga states that he is two years in and that it is a full time job.

Selectman Varga asks the candidates if they are willing to change their personal schedules for the position. L. Britten responds that he can change his schedule. J. Melanson responds that he can adjust his schedule. C. Mattocks responds that all he does is constantly change and adapt.

C. Maynard asks the candidates what is the top priority for the town. C. Mattocks responds over all the BOS and the BOS meetings need further structure and rules to be able to run better meetings and get more work done. J. Melanson responds to help the town and find better ways to be efficient, to save the town money and have better ways of doing things. L. Britten responds that there is not a lot of fat in the town budget and the tax base is limited. He is more of a team builder and that things can be better, but how? He states he is going to do the best just he can. Also states that he has 30+ years experience in municipality.

R. Tufts-Keegan asks the candidates if the appointment is until the next election and if anyone has an intent to run again in March. L. Britten responds it all depends on how it goes with who is appointed, it comes down to what is really best for the town. J. Melanson responds yes he would. C. Mattocks responds if people are open.

Selectman Varga asks the candidates what are your views of the future development of the town. J. Melanson asks business or overall? He states he doesn't want 40+ unit housing in town, a smaller store would be nice. Also states a small town doesn't need big things. L. Britten responds he doesn't think that writing of the housing project is such a good idea. He states the planning and zoning boards have a lot of power to dictate what they want for the town. If you want a school and other services you're going to have to pay for them. Also states this is something the Selectman do not have anything to deal with it. C. Mattocks responds he is willing to explore any and all options for further revenue for the town. He also states that there is plenty of other ways to find ways to make the town money.

T. Donovan-Laviolette asks the candidates does anyone have any relationships with current Selectmen or any other town employees outside of the meetings. L. Britten responds that he knows Selectman Boisvert because we live in the same neighborhood. J. Melanson responds that he has lived across the street from Selectman Boisvert in the past, but they do not hang out. C. Mattocks responds that he only knows Selectman Boisvert from seeing him on a job in his neighborhood and stopped to ask him a question.

Selectman Varga asks the candidates if they have any ideas to encourage growth of the town. C. Mattocks responds he would be willing to explore different options of promoting the town. That it would be beneficial to be proactive in marketing the town. J. Melanson responds the closest gas station is union so possibly a gas station would be beneficial to the town or a small store. He states he would like to explore the incentives for tax breaks. L. Britten responds he would have to reach out to the Regional Chain of Commerce because he is not sure that the population of the town could support a store or gas station. He states that with the amount of land the town owns that industry and manufacturing would be a better option and this would limit the impact on town services and the school.

C. Maynard asks the candidates what they believe the number one problem is with the town. L. Britten responds that the taxes are the number one problem. He states that the town doesn't have the amount of funds to support what we want. He states the town doesn't have the base to support growth. Also states the number one problem is the lack of money the town has. J. Melanson responds that he also believes the number one problem is taxes. He states there is only 13 miles of road in town and that there is better ways to spend our money in departments. C. Mattocks responds that the lack of revenue services in the town and we need to use it better with out straining what we already have.

A. Bowden asks the candidates with it being budget season does anyone have experience with budgets. L. Britten responds that he will look for training and that he has prepared budgets in the past. He also states that he doesn't want to reward those with money left in the budget or give it back to them. J. Melanson responds that he has no experience with budgets, but is willing to get training. C. Mattocks responds that he has no experience with budgets, but he is willing to get training as well.

T. Donovan-Laviolette asks the candidates if they are appointed and are not the liaison to the budget committee would you be willing to attend the budget meetings. C. Mattocks responds that he would be willing to. J. Melanson responds that it would be helpful and willing to. L. Britten responds that he has nothing but time and is willing to.

A. Bowden asks the candidates if you are not appointed as selectman would you still be willing to attend the budget meetings. C. Mattocks responds if things change than yes. J. Melanson responds that he would be available less, but yes he would. L. Britten responds that just sitting as a spectator that he would not be able to learn the jist of how the budget works.

Selectman Varga states that we have three good candidates. He states that L. Britten has a lot of experience and he is retired so he has more time and the position needs someone that has time. Selectman Boisvert states that he doesn't disagree. He states that the position takes up a lot of time and it takes a big toll on you. He states that everyone has good ideas to relieve the tax burden, but because it is such a short term that you may be voted out before any project you want done can succeed. He states it is nice that everyone would like to see the town grow and seem to be open minded. He also states that it is nice to see everyone want what is best for the town. Selectman Varga states that the BOS will take a few days to think about the candidates and will have someone sworn in before the special town meeting.

Selectman Boisvert makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. Selectman Varga seconds. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Kara Boisvert, Administrative Assistant Deputy