



Approved By  
Board of Selectmen

*Roxanne Tufts*  
*Scott Ferguson*  
*Tracy Donovan-Lavolette*

## Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30 pm

**Non-Public Session @ Municipal Office Bldg @ 5:30 PM**

### 1. Non Pub session

**Minutes:**

Motion to seal minutes for 5 years for 2/21/24 meeting was made by Tracy Donovan-Lavolette and seconded by Mike Green. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to seal minutes for 5 years for 2/22/24 meeting was made by Tracy Donovan-Lavolette and seconded by Mike Green. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to seal minutes for 5 years for 2/26/24 meeting was made by Tracy Donovan-Lavolette and seconded by Mike Green. All in favor, motion carried.

### Board of Selectmen Public Hearing @ Old Town Hall @ 6:30 PM

### 2. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Roll Call

**Minutes:**

All members were present: Roxanne Tufts-Keegan-Chair; Scott Ferguson-Vice-Chair; Tracy Donovan-Lavolette-Member; Mike Green-Member; Tim Cremmen-Member

### 5. Approval of Minutes

**Minutes:**

Approval of minutes for 2/12/2024. A motion to approve the minutes as read was submitted by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Mike Green. All agreed motion carried.

## Signature Action

### 6. Multiple Property Tax Credits/Exemptions

**Minutes:**

There were 3 exemptions/credits applied for. Map 17 Lot 15; map 3 lot 35; and map 5 lot 61. Two were not approved due to ineligible and one was approved.

## Old Business

## New Business

### 7. Audit Representation Letter

**Minutes:**

The representation letter from the auditors Vachon Clukay & Company PC has been signed by the Selemen Chair Roxzrne Tufts-Keegan.

## Public Comment

### 8. Public discussion

**Minutes:**

Public session was opened at 6:46 PM.

Discussion on Warrant Articles: Certain petition Warrant Articles need to be on the ballot: Town manager and Reduce selectmen from 5 to 3 due to RSA guidelines. There was much discussion on if the Town were to adopt being SB2. Joanne Coskie read her opinion on why she is against adopting SB@ voting in Middleton. See attached notation. There was further questions in regards to the 2 petition articles. Roxanne Tufts-Keegan read the articles as they were presented that will be on the ballots. If the Town Manager is adopted and passes, there were questions on how does the town move forward. The discussions and questions were from the following towns people, Patty Sindorf, John Quinn, David Dufresne and Kelley Tivnan. Scott Ferguson talked about the water filtration system has been put in. David Dufresne was asking when the Town would discontinue purchasing water for the bubblers. Scott Ferguson stated that the water still needs further testing and the samples are out being tested. Once we receive the results, we will proceed further with what is necessary at that time. Joanne Coskie thanked the Board of Selectmen for following through on the water situation. Bonnie Gagnon mentioned that the Rec will have drinks & snacks at the Town meeding. Kate Buzard mention that RSA 33A minutes need to be kept forever. There was talk about the heat in the municipal building, the second floor where Selectmen offices, Town Clerk's office and meeting room, the heat is still running beyond what the thermostats are set at. It has been as hot as 82 degrees with the heat set at 65. We will have Dead River come and assess the situation. The wifi needs to be moved from the Police Department to selectmen secretary's office. Will contact Consolodated.

## Adjournment

### 9. Motion to Adjourn

**Minutes:**

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm was motioned by Tracy Donovan-Laviolette, motion was seconded by Tim Cremen, all in favor and motion was carried.

## Why I am against adopting SB2 voting in Middleton by Joann Coskie

I don't believe that we will achieve any greater voter participation by adopting SB2 for governing our town. It will simply mean that those who do not wish to get involved, to become educated on issues, will either succumb to whatever they heard by gossip or social media and vote without sufficient knowledge about budgets, expenditures, and issues.

Warrant articles on the SB2 ballot are iron-clad. If, not having attended a deliberative session, voters have only 'yea' or 'nay' options with no opportunity to fine-tune a warrant article.

Further, at a town meeting, any issued voted and decided may be challenged. Issues can be reconsidered before the meeting adjourns. Issues can also be challenged by 50 voters petitioning a special meeting to bring about another vote on the issue.

With a town meeting, any 10 voters have the right to submit a warrant article as long as it is submitted by at least the fifth Tuesday before the annual meeting.

Every voter is a legislator at a town meeting. The town meeting is to a town what Congress is to the United States.

Not so with SB2. With SB2, you simply vote with no opportunity to discuss, modify, amend or change in any way that which is on the ballot.

There is NO HIGHER authority than the town meeting. The people hold the power. The Moderator can prescribe rules, but the voters can even alter those rules. The MAJORITY rules to accomplish what the majority WISHES to accomplish.

Quoting an article in the Foster's Daily Democrat:

"Democracy—use it or lose it.

In a town meeting, more than any other form of government on earth your community and the services it provides emanate not from some 'they' in the sky, but from you the voters. That's not just a maudlin, pithy statement." "people worldwide"" wish to create and secure for themselves precisely the kind of democratic rights we in our complacency take for granted. If you haven't been to a town meeting lately, this is a good year to inform yourself, attend, vote, and make it work."