

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2019

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Judith Hoag; Albert Sirard; absent: David DiNicola, Chair who is on vacation
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Warrants approved and signed; Payroll: \$18,402.44; Expenses: \$12,505.36

Minutes of 3/12/18 approved with changes on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0.

Minutes of 3/19/19 approved on motion by Judy, Al 2nd; vote 2-0

Mail reviewed: only new item was requested by Animal Control Officer for an update
Dog By-Law to be placed on Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Board will review and
discuss at next meeting.

Gateway proposed budget discussed next. Consideration of the “across the board”
percentage increase being equal for all towns and not based on the per student cost per
town for next school year, Middlefield’s school budget would see an increase of more
than 6% for the coming year based on the per student budgeting. There are pros and cons
for members of the district and would have to be voted on at each town’s Annual Town
Meeting, if one town rejected, it would fail and budgeting would return to the prior
assessment per student. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

A Pole Hearing to be scheduled for April 9th, this hearing is requested by Eversource for
the Chester Road bridge replacement. Eversource will have to move 3 poles.

Ta gave update on the MEMA Mitigation meeting that was held on 3/23/18. PVPC is
preparing the mitigation plan.

Ta also informed Board he has been in contact with the local representative regarding
having the town designated a “Purple Heart Town.”

The ATM Warrant was reviewed next with Finance Chair, Joe Kearns. Article 3 was
reviewed and Board agreed with the recommendations. Article 4 spurred discussion
regarding the increase of \$5,000 requested by the Treasurer; this is a 50% increase. The
Board did not agree and there will be further discussion at the next meeting. Article 5 was
also questioned on \$15,000 budgeted for Town Counsel, this is the same amount as last
year when there was pending legal action regarding the “Camp Ground”. This has since
been resolved in favor of the town. The assessors have a pending action before the
Appellate Tax Board so the current request may be justified. Also, the Town no longer
has to pay into Social Security since it switched to OBRA thus resulting in a \$4,000
savings. Article 6 was agreed to with a more than \$5,000 reduction in requests.

Article 7 is the Highway Dept. requests; this will also be discussed at a future meeting. Article 8 included a \$1,214 increase for the Librarian requested by the Board of Trustees. Article 0 was reviewed and board agreed with requests and recommendations. Same with Articles 10, 11 and 12.

School budget items are for future discussion. The rest of the articles on the warrant were agreed to by the Board.

In Public Input, broadband Committee member, Maureen Sullivan, stated that committee chair was to submit a disclosure statement to Ethics. She also gave a letter to the Board that could be read at a later date but did involve a building permit issued prior to the closing of a ZBA hearing.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Al 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag

Albert Sirard