



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Office of the Selectmen

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, December 1, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Edward B. St. John, First
Selectman
Elaine M. Strobel, Selectman
Ralph J. Barra, Selectman

Also Present: Greg Cyr
Cathy Konnik
Barbara J. Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Linda Zagauskas, Reporter - Voices

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of November 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Selectman Barra MOTIONED to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Tax Rebates

| | |
|--|------------|
| VW Credit Leasing Ltd., Libertyville, IL | \$190.19 |
| Daimler Trust, Roanoke, TX | \$1,013.99 |
| Honda Lease Trust, Holyoke, MA | \$296.77 |
| Nissan Infiniti Lt., Dallas, TX | \$361.59 |

The First Selectman MOTIONED that they take their normal course, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

The First Selectman read aloud the following Resolution:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

RESOLVED, that the First Selectman, be and hereby is authorized to act on behalf of the Town of Middlebury in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for participation in the Fiscal Year 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed their signature this 1st day of December, 2014.

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Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to adopt the Resolution, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

The First Selectman explained that the former Fire Chief is no longer the Emergency Management Director. Town Officials are discussing a permanent replacement. They will be placing an announcement in one of the papers of a job description. This grant is to fund that part of the operation. He has asked FEMA for a current copy of the job description. This is a non-paying job. In the event of an emergency situation (hurricane, flood), the Emergency Management Director works at the direction of the First Selectman. The First Selectman added that between the Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Director of Public Works, they are going to work it out temporarily.

Public Comments

Cathy Konnik asked if the Town filed the Mitigation Plan update. Mrs. Konnik added that there are strategies mentioned in the update that are suggested that they move forward with, how do those things come to fruition, i.e., there is a strategy to pursue open spaces in flood risk areas as open spaces. The First Selectman suggested that Mrs. Konnik save these questions for Dave Murphy for the meeting with legislative and FEMA officials on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. The First Selectman added that Southbury has two pieces of open land that they have been trying to buy through FEMA and have been unsuccessful for years.

Mrs. Konnik asked what the Town's recommendation on widening the Hop Brook culvert. The First Selectman said that this has to do with the bridge that goes over 188. First Selectman St. John explained that the Town will be getting around to making an I-84 revision change and it will change the design. This type of change would have to go through DOT. The Town cannot make improvements on State property. Mrs. Konnik inquired about the culverts under the cemetery, culverts underneath Middlebury Road near Steinmann, and how the Town remedies these issues. The First Selectman again suggested that she ask David Murphy these questions.

First Selectman St. John said that the Porter Avenue and Longmeadow bridges were redone. We received a federal and state grant to upgrade those bridges. The design engineers looked at the maps and built the bridges to code. The Shadduck Road Bridge was upgraded and then the Town was told that it had to be wider. Mrs. Konnik asked what the process was going to be for taking this

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strategy and carrying it forward and putting it into action. Does the Board of Selectmen say which ones they agree with or disagree with? Mr. St. John said that they have to make a funding request.

First Selectman explained that it's going to be very difficult to go back and ask for the funding and that Mrs. Konnik is asking what the Town's commitment to do any of these. Mrs. Konnik said she was looking for a yes or no answer. The First Selectman said that the Town is not revising the bridges. She asked that the First Selectman to go through the list. The First Selectman added that the Town will help with the grant process, but Greg Cyr would have to orchestrate the handling of the grant. Mr. Cyr said that the application would have to come from the Town of Middlebury.

There was some discussion on what revisions and corrections need to be made and have already been completed. The update suggested an Increase the capacity of culvert on 63 near Watertown Road, increasing the conveyance capacities. The work to the Longmeadow bridge has already been done.

Mr. Cyr said that grants were received to do that work, if that work was filed with FEMA at the time, it may have had an effect on the special hazard flood plan that they have now. This information no longer exists. Mr. Cyr added that the information that doesn't exist has to do with the widening of the bridge. The bridges had to be approved by all the federal and state agencies. He asked to go back and look at this even if it's 6 inches or a foot it helps with his premiums. Mr. Cyr said that he has to have damage to be eligible about grants.

Mrs. Konnik said that she hopes that Ed understands that as a homeowner elevating a house would be the last they thing would want to do, the values of their homes would go down even further. It might help the flood insurance premium.

Greg Cyr said that the Assessor gave a small reduction in his taxes. He was told to try it and try to get more evidence and he tried to appeal again but he was told you cannot appeal twice for the same reason. Mrs. Konnik added that she feels that the tone of the discussion has changed significantly over the past several months. The First Selectman said that this should have been addressed in 2010 and now they are looking to revisit this 2014. He wants to see how the meeting goes on Wednesday. Mr. Cyr said that the only thing that is mentioned is nuisance flooding. He doesn't feel the area is a problem, if there was a

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problem they would have seen it. That strikes him as the area needing to be looked at. He believes the Town is supposed to have a Flood Plain Coordinator and he feels that that name should be mentioned in the plan. The First Selectman said that at that time, Jean Donegan had just left her employment with the Town now Curt Bosco is the Zoning Officer. This could have happened because there was a lapse of time when Jean Donegan left the town and Curt was appointed.

Mrs. Cyr said that he hopes that the Board understands that he is out \$10,000's, because his home value has declined and he is paying high flood insurance costs. He started this process four years ago and he feels that he is in the same spot as he was four years ago and he feels that it is not showing any moving forward.

First Selectman said that the Town will be willing to work as to what they can do; he will not revisit the rebuilding of the two bridges, and the other two areas are being worked on. Someone needs to put together a clear plan on mitigating the area, we need to take the first step and that isn't clear. We need to find out what is going to take to reduce the hazard. The First Selectman said that his biggest fear is that they throw a ton of money at the project and nothing changes. He is not going to position the Town of Middlebury into spending a ton of money and they do not know what the resolve will be. She said that the Town of Granby is filing a LOMAR and she has heard that they have FEMA support.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Selectman Barra MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully,

Barbara J. Whitaker

Barbara J. Whitaker
Recording Clerk