



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Office of the Selectmen

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

January 5, 2015

Shepardson Community Center – Room 26

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

Also

Present: Robert Smith, Town Attorney
Larry Hutvagner, Chief Financial Officer
Dan Norton, Public Works Director
Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Peter Vaccarelli

Donald Fisher
Jill Fisher
William Stowell
Michael McCormack
Greg Cyr
Fran Barton
Bill Bittar, Reporter – Republican
American
Linda Zukauskas, 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 Minutes of December 15, 2014 Meeting

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2014 meeting, SECONDED by First Selectman St. John.

Tax Rebates

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| Dirck E. Westervelt, Middlebury, CT | \$92.41 |
| Carolyn J. Carusillo, Watertown, CT | \$55.45 |
| Sean Coughlin, Middlebury, CT | \$134.44 |
| Donald T. Ford, Jr., Middlebury, CT | \$306.22 |
| Otto Hosier, Middlebury, CT | \$10.57 |
| Hyundai Lease Titling Trust, Fountain Valley, CA | \$123.58 |
| Nissan Infiniti Lt., Dallas, TX | \$195.90 |
| Carol A. Villamana, Middlebury, CT | \$150.54 |
| Louis C. Villamana, Middlebury, CT | \$110.52 |
| Dirck E. Westervelt, Middlebury, CT | \$104.74 |

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED that the above-mentioned tax rebates take their normal course, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Reappointments

Selectman Barra MOTIONED to reappoint Brenda Carter as a member of the Safety & Health Committee for a term from December 16, 2014 through December 16, 2015, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to appoint Kenneth Long as the Town of Middlebury's Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission Representative, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Resignation

Kenneth Long as a member of the Safety and Health Committee

First Selectman MOTIONED to accept the resignation of Kenneth Long to the Safety Committee SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Approval of Town Hall and Civilian Police Department Contract (CSEA Local 2001) December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2017

(including change of hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The First Selectman noted the change in work hours. Selectman Strobel said that all of the dispatcher language has been removed. Attorney Smith said that today's Republican American had all of the highlights on the contract reported this morning. He feels that it was a good deal for the Town and the employees. Selectman Strobel noted that the copays are now higher.

Michael McCormack asked what copays were upped. Attorney Smith stated that the co-share premiums were increased for the clerk's contract between \$12.75 and \$14.00 depending on when you were hired.

Mr. McCormack asked if this was an increase of 12% or is the percent they will be paying. Attorney Smith explained that they were at 10% and 11% and now they will be increased by the end of the contract.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to accept the Town Hall and Civilian Police Department Contract (CSEA Local 2001) December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2017 (including change of hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Approval of United Public Service Employees Union/Cops Division – Middlebury Police Unit Contract July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017

Mr. McCormack said that it appears that the \$1.00 reduction in the pay for new employees (officers), if they hired one employee of the next four years it would be a savings of \$20,000. There is nothing done with the co-pay. If their co-pay was increased it would save the Town \$49,000. Mr. McCormack added that when the Town moved from PPO to HSA program, the Town funded it at 100% and over time this is done away with; dropping from 75% to 50%. We've been in the plan for five years now and we're still paying 100%, if we paid half of the contribution that would save the Town \$48,000 over the contract. He knows that negotiations are difficult, and he feels that we had an opportunity to save monies and we didn't.

Attorney Smith offered that the copays are 8% and 11% depending on when you were hired. Attorney Smith explained that the Town received significant economic benefits from the contract and that they reduced all five categories of officers by \$1.00. A probationary employee who works up to an officer first class is a savings to the Town. A probationary employee can work as a regular policeman.

Attorney Smith stated that the Town is paying a 6% match on the defined contribution, which is good for the Town and that the Union allowed the Town to switch back from a \$750.00 uniform allowance, the Town will provide the uniforms. Additionally, the Town agreed to a 2 ¼ increase average on pay increases.

Mr. McCormack said that it seems to him that it took two years in negotiations to settle on things that seem to be standard around the state. Both sides were far apart in the beginning and we finally came together. He feels that the co-pay is below what others are paying in town and the HSA contribution should have been reduced.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to approve the United Public Service Employees Union/Cops Division – Middlebury Police Unit Contract from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Change of Bid Requirements – Purchase of used Roadside Mower for Public Works

The First Selectman stated that the current bid requirements do not allow the purchase of used equipment without Selectman's approval. They have been shopping the market for a long time; they purchased a used fire vehicle and it turned out to be a good piece of equipment.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to waive the Bid Requirements for the purchase of a roadside mower for Public Works, SECONDED by Selectman Barra.

Dan Norton, Public Works Director explained that they did go through the State contract for a new one it was \$110,000 to \$115,000. They can purchase this one for \$92,000 less the rental. The machine had very low hours on it. The First Selectman added that when they deal with rental or used equipment you must get the Board's approval. The current mower is 28 years old.

Public Comments

Greg Cyr asked if there was anything new on the flood plain situation.

The First Selectman said that after the first of the year, Selectman Barra will be meeting with David Murphy from Milone and McBroom, and they will report back to the Board of Selectman. Greg Cyr asked if public attendance would be a part of those meetings. First Selectman St. John said that he would think that a real discussion would take place when Selectman Barra comes back to make recommendations on this issue to the board of Selectmen.

Adjournment

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to adjourn, SECONDED by Selectman Barra.
Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted this 7th day of January 2015 subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

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