



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Board of Selectmen

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September 26 2022 at 1:40 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY, CT

AMENDED MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Monday September 19, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Town Hall Conference Room

Mary Beth Lubanski
TOWN CLERK

Start: 4:02 p.m.

End: 5:03 p.m.

Present:

Edward B. St. John, First Selectman
Elaine Strobel, Selectman
Ralph Barra, Selectman
Robert W. Smith, Town Attorney
Patrick Deely, Chief of Police
Ronald Hunt, Police Lieutenant

JoAnn Cappelletti, Director of Social Services
Terry McAuliffe, EDC Chairman
Richard Dewes, Public Guest
Marj Needham, Middlebury Bee Intelligencer
Linda Zukauskas, Voices
Liana St. Germain, Recording Clerk

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 4:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of August 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Edward B. St. John MOTIONED to approve the August 29, 2022 minutes, SECONDED by Selectman Ralph Barra. Unanimous approval.

Tax Rebates

Melissa A. Anelli – \$49.33
Tara E. Fitzgerald – \$183.37
Honda Lease Trust - \$148.65
JP Morgan Chase Bank NA – \$491.16
Richard F. Mazeika – \$79.87
Richard F. Sr. & Laura L. Mazeika - \$41.86

Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - \$299.94
Clyde C. Jr & Caroline B Obar - \$20.56
Toyota Lease Trust - \$34.07
Toyota Lease Trust - \$183.94

First Selectman St. John has requested these rebates take their usual course, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Resignation

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to accept the resignation of Anthony R. Minchella Sr., as a member on the Economic Development Commission, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Appointments

First Selectman St. John noted during the Police Commission meeting which was held on Monday September 12, 2022, a motion was recommended to make Acting Chief of Police Patrick Deely, the permanent Police Chief. First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to approve Patrick Deely as Chief of Police, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

First Selectman St. John noted receiving letters from both the Republican and Democratic Town Committees. Both Committees do not object to the current open Republican position on the Economic Development Commission to be awarded to Jesse Langer (Unaffiliated), with the understanding the position will remain a Republican Position. First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to appoint Jesse Langer (U) to the Economic Development Commission (09/19/2022 – 12/21/2025), SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval. Terry McAuliffe noted Jesse's significant history with the Economic Development Commission.

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to appoint Dave Sieling (R) for the position as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee (09/19/2022 – 07/26/2023), SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Northwest CT Public Safety Communications Center – First Selectman St. John noted with the passing of Richard Nicol, a position has opened up on the NWCTPS Corporate Board. First Selectman St. John went on to state he reached out to the Fire Department and is waiting to hear back, until then First Selectman St. John suggested nominating himself until they have an individual who is interested. Selectman Barra MOTIONED to nominate First Selectman St. John, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

ARPA Funds – JoAnn Cappelletti discussed and reviewed with the Board the “Are you OK” Telephone Reassurance System. It is an automated program that calls seniors, handicapped or homebound individuals who want to register. This is at no cost to the individuals. It calls the individual daily and if they do not answer the phone, after three (3) attempts, the police department is contacted to handle a welfare check. The program costs \$750.00, as well as a set fee and a training fee, all are a one-time fee of about \$1,000.

Eversource - An additional issue of concern, JoAnn stated per Eversource come May 31, 2023, many clients will lose their power. They have been protected for the last two (2) and a half years under the COVID medical protection plan. Many individuals who have not been able to pay their Eversource bill due to COVID, will now owe their balance, and if they are unable to, their power will be turned off. JoAnn recommends the town put aside a reserve in the event anyone in our town may need assistance. First Selectman St. John stated that \$5,000 possibly be put aside, and set ground rules when applying for assistance from the Town. JoAnn also went on to state the energy assistance plan is going down from \$2,500 to about \$1,200.

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to move forward with the “Are you OK” program, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

It was discussed that First Selectman St. John believes this should be covered by ARPA Funds, where Selectman Strobel clarified that if the funds are unavailable, this program will be granted for \$1,000.

Fuel Assistance/CT Energy - First Selectman St. John requested JoAnn review, the “Fuel Assistance Program”. JoAnn went on to explain the “Connecticut Energy Assistance Program” is a grant based on income guidelines. Once this is exhausted individuals may apply for “Operation Fuel”. Which is a one (1) time award for the year, of up to \$700. This program has already started taking applications, JoAnn states they have processed about 20, all are still pending, and expects many more to come in.

Shepardson - Selectman Strobel inquired about the \$25,000 for a refrigerator for Shepardson's, JoAnn goes on to explain it would cost about \$5,000, not \$25,000. Selectman Barra also clarified that

MINUTES – BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Page 3

the \$25,000, noted during the 08/01/2022 Board of Selectman meeting, was for the complete overall fixes and not the refrigerator alone at Shepardson. JoAnn explained how the kitchen cabinets are warped and rotted unable to lock them. First Selectman St. John noted when they are replaced they should look into metal cabinets. JoAnn goes on to note the remainder of the appliances is still doable. First Selectman St. John noted that once the funds come in, \$5,000 should be put aside for power and \$10,000 should be put aside for fuel to assist our town residents if needed.

Fenn Farm – First Selectman St. John reviews the Fenn Farm Horse Barn Cupola Renovation Project. First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to grant M.F. Rosa Contracting LLC, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

The Peddler's Ordinance – Selectman Barra request the Ordinance be taken into final consideration. Selectman Strobel inquired if it is possible to amend the sentence "such person shall first obtain a permit from the Police Department rather than Board of Selectman". To clarify any confusion such Peddler may have. First Selectman St. John stated to have Selectman Barra go over and review the Ordinance with Police Chief Deely. To ensure they have all things needed, including equipment, to handle this Ordinance.

Water Main Project – First Selectman St. John noted the Water Main replacement project for Westover School will start around October 1, 2022. First Selectman St. John has requested to speak with Police Chief Deely regarding this project. First Selectman St. John went on to state the remainder of the water main projects to be conducted by the state will start sometime next year.

Public Comment

Town Resident, Richard Dewes attended the meeting to request if there was anything the town could do to assist the seniors, especially since the energy assistance is going to be cut in half. Mr. Dewes goes on to explain possibly offering free meals for the seniors, or free transportation for the seniors. Selectman Strobel noted he should continue to keep in contact with JoAnn, and First Selectman St. John requested Selectman Barra to look into this and assist JoAnn.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

First Selectman Edward B. St. John MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 5:03 p.m.; SECONDED by Selectman Ralph Barra. Unanimous approval.

Next meeting is slated to take place on Monday October 3, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liana St. Germain

Recording Clerk

