



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Office of the Selectmen

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 18, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

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

Also Present: Attorney Robert Smith
Barbara J. Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Steve Bigham, Reporter – Republican American
Linda Zukauskas, Reporter – Voices
Marj Needham, Reporter – Bee Intelligencer

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of April 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting; SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Tax Rebates

Jill Montville & Jill Hanrahan, Middlebury, CT	\$182.71
Morgan & Christy Locke, Middlebury, CT	\$1,886.70
Arthur Brucato, Sarasota, FL	\$114.23
Robert Hanggi, Middlebury, CT	\$92.08
Paul Pater, Middlebury, CT	\$50.47
Toyota Lease Trust,	\$98.03

The First Selectman MOTIONED to approve the above-mentioned tax rebates; SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Appointment

Selectman Barra MOTIONED to appoint Michael P. Roach (D), as a member of the Park & Recreation Commission for a term from May 18, 2020 to March 4, 2021; SECONDED by the First Selectman. Unanimous approval.

Reappointments

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to reappoint Raymond Pietrorazio (R), as a member of the Land Preservation & Open Space Committee for a term from May 15, 2020 to May 15, 2021; SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Selectman Barra MOTIONED to reappoint Joseph J. Drauss (D), as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term from May 18, 2020 to May 18, 2025; SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Charter Revision Commission Draft Report for Proposed Changes to Town Charter
And Updated Revision of Charter Section 702 D, Second & Third Paragraphs

The First Selectman explained that per the Charter Revision Commission's amendments that were sent to the Town updates were made to include eliminating the expensive process of post legal notices in the newspaper regarding the budget and posting them on the website as well as including the Board of Selectmen back in the process of revising a rejected budget.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to approve the Charter Revision Draft Report that includes the Updated Revisions of Charter Section 702D to the second and third paragraphs (attached); SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom in the Town Hall Conference room on the Board of Selectmen's recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission.

**Resolution on the Temporary Suspension of Zoning Regulations that Conflict with EO 7MM
& the Modification of Ordinance Concerning Outdoor Private Gatherings**

The First Selectman explained that the attached Resolution was in response to the Governor's Executive Order 7MM and in coordination with Attorney Dana D'Angelo, Terry Smith, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Curt Bosco, Zoning Enforcement Officer to modify the ordinance concerning outdoor private gatherings under tents or portable structures. There are no fees involved.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to adopt the above-mentioned Resolution; SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Performance Bond 147 Kissewaug Road

The First Selectman explained that there is an Equestrian Center being built on this property and that the bond was set at \$1,850 by John N. Calabrese, P.E. for erosion control requirements. First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to approve the Erosion Control Bond Estimate for 147 Kissewaug Road by Peak Engineers, LLC in the amount of \$1,850.00; SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Public Comments

At this time Selectman Strobel opened a dialogue concerning proposed tax payments for the residents of the Town. Selectman Strobel explained that the Town takes in \$36M in tax revenue; half of which would be \$18M; and four payments would be \$9M, leaving \$2M for town expenses. Because there are many departments that must payout expenses on a monthly basis, and the Town must pay Region 15 \$7M, it would be impossible for the Town to move to two payments because the Town must pay the Region.

The First Selectman added that the reduced interest rate is for 90 days and if the Town were to go to four tax payments it would put the Town at a serious loss. He added that Region 15 bonds with increasing interest payments. The First Selectman explained that he is concerned about the solvency of the State of Connecticut, which is already down several million dollars. For Middlebury, the State funding is something that the Town could manage without. The Town has received LOCIP and infrastructure funds.

First Selectman Barra thanked the First Selectman for the job he has been doing in handling and maintaining efforts with COVID-19. The First Selectman explained that this has been a team effort and that Curt Bosco, Zoning Officer met with over 20 businesses owners in Town over the weekend to help with the re-opening effort on May 20, 2020. Joann Cappelletti, Director of Elderly & Social Services has been making great strides with the foodbank.

Betsy Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director introduced herself to the Board of Selectmen. She is working with the Parks & Recreation Commission on Memorial Day festivities amid COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions set by the Governor.

Adjournment

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Selectman Strobel.
Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval this 19th day of May 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

Barbara J. Whitaker
Recording Clerk