Approve by
Board of Selectmen

J. B. Hotchkiss
Joseph Bailey
J. Mullen

Town of Middleton
Board of Selectmen Meeting
January 28, 2019

Called to order at 6:30 P.M
Roll Call- all present. J. Hotchkiss, J. Bailey, J. Mullen
Pledge Recited

Public Hearing- *J. Mullen motions to open the public hearing at 6:30 PM. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor. J. Hotchkiss speaks regarding the separation of the Town Clerk / Tax Collector. The assessor clerk has in the past been a one day job and has been now changed to a two day a week position to relieve the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant from having to cover the work of that other position. Kathleen Blaney speaks regarding the job details. How the Town Clerk / Tax Collector together does not leave time to devote to the Tax Collector duties. The Assessor clerk and tax collector basically handle the same information and can help the townspeople more efficiently. Both previous Assessor clerks wanted to increase the hours due to the workload that has increased in the past few years. So far this year there are14 abatements that have been filed. Joann Coskie asked for a written format of the job duties for each position for review. Resident from the audience speaks regarding the increase in taxes. Question of why his taxes have increased so much in the last few years. No other comments regarding the public hearing. Public hearing will remain open for the hour. J. Mullen motions to close public hearing at 7:32 pm. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor.*

Signature Action:

- *J. Mullen motions to approve the minutes from 01/14/2019 as transcribed. J. Bailey seconds. All in favor.*
- *Audit agreement was signed by the Chairman of the board.*
- *Town owned property bids opened by the BOS-*
    - *Spruce Road Map 4 Lot – one bid from Peter Cicolini for $2,600. Mr. Cicolini is an abutter of this property. J. Bailey motions to accept the bid as received in the amount of $2600.00. J. Mullen seconds all in favor.*
    - *Pleasant Valley Road Map 9 Lot 1-1- Four Bids received. L. Parker mentions that there is a capped off foundation on the property and that there could possibly be squatters on the property but every time the town has visited the site there was no one found.*
        - *James Brown bid in the amount of $ 20,002*
        - *James & Roxanne Keegan bid in the amount of $ 13,525*
        - *Janet Kalar bid in the amount of $8000.00*
        - *Joseph Varga bid in the amount of $8000.00*

Joseph Varga speaks regarding his bid. He has lived next to this parcel for years and his property abuts three sides. J. Mullen speaks regarding this parcel. The Town has removed the electrical power. The property needs cleaning. The capped off foundation is in bad condition. There is a lot of debris on the property. J. Bailey motions to accept the bid from Joseph Varga for 130 Pleasant Valley Road Map 9-1-1 for $8000.00. J. Mullen seconds, all in favor.

- *Abatement request. J. Hotchkiss read aloud Avitars recommendation for the hardship for Mr. Glidden. Taxpayer has been receiving an exemption for the past years but now since the new assessments he no longer qualifies as his income / assets exceeds the limits by $700.00. Resident is asking for the BOS to reconsider the exemption. J. Mullen speaks about how the BOS understands people are struggling but at this time approving the abatement might start precedence. J. Mullen motions to deny the abatement at this time but thinks the Town should look at the exemptions limits and if increasing them and how that could impact the other taxpayers. Mr. Glidden can reapply at a later date. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor.*
- *Milfoil State Grant application. J. Mullen speaks regarding the state grant process. This grant reimburses the town 25% of the Milfoil cleanup in Sunrise Lake. Currently there are approximately 12 acres of effected area in Sunrise Lake. The herbicide treatment is more expensive but should also last more than a year. J. Bailey motions to accept the contract. J. Mullen seconds, all in favor.*
- *Warrant Articles- Board reviews and votes on whether to recommend or not recommend. J. Hotchkiss read aloud each article.*
    - *Article 10- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 11- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 12- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 13- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 14- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 15- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 16- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 17- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 18- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 19- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 20- Board Recommends-2 in favor -1 against*
    - *Article 21- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 22- NOT Recommend- all 3 against*
    - *Article 23- Board Recommends*
    - *Article 24- Board Recommends*

Old Business

- *James Keegan concern follow-up- Concern was brought to the Selectmen regarding digging happening on the property. Due to lack of owner's signatures for a septic system, DES recommended removal of any water source needed for a septic system to happen. This was the digging that was happening. A copy of the letter was provided to Roxanne Keegan Tufts.*
- *Town liability for trespassing. J. Mullen spoke regarding towns liability regarding if there was arrest made for someone trespassing. Question was if arrested and the person is homeless and the town releases them on their own cognizance is the town liable for this person. RSA 161 refers to adult abuse and how an officer has to take precaution of safety.*
- *Cemetery Laws- J. Hotchkiss reviews the agreement that is currently held with Wakefield. Town only has to provide a location, not necessarily have an agreement with a Town. When the time comes to pay for the 2019 year the board will make the decision whether to renew. Ken Garry mentions that the cemetery option can be a mausoleum.*
- *Non-resident use of the OTH- tabled*
- *Solitude Lake Management Milfoil Treatment Contract- J. Mullen speaks about the contract that needs to be signed for the agreement of the herbicide treatment. Board was concerned with signing the contract for funds that would not be voted on till town meeting in March. J. Mullen mentions how there is $48,000 in the Conservation account that could cover additional cost that is not already in the Milfoil CRF if the warrant article in March does not pass. Town would ask*

the Conservation Commission to spend those funds. Conservation Committee meets on the 11th. J. Mullen is requesting the board to sign certain sections of the contract, so the contract would be submitted on time. Board wants to wait to confirm funds.

New Business

- *Resident Mr. Ellingwood mentions that recycling is no longer being accepted at Waste Management from Middleton residents. Resident suggests setting up a mini transfer station. J. Mullen mentions how there is not enough resources to maintain a transfer station in Middleton. Someone would have to monitor the location and who is dropping off items. J. Bailey mentions how there is a group of residents in town who are looking into researching a recycle program again. Ken Garry speaks about years ago there use to be a bin and was abused, costing the town more money.*

Public Participation

J. Mullen motions to adjourn at 8:19 PM. J. Bailey seconds, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Laura Parker, Administrative Assistant