

Selectboard Minutes
July 13, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti was absent
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Joe Kearns, Finance Chair

Listening on phone access: Dave DiNicola and Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$10,062.56; Expenses: FY'20
\$18,528.05; FY'21 \$70,648.20

Minutes approved in motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

TA advised of reduced billing from Lecrenski for the vocational busing.

Kay Judge looking for direction on Fair running some fund raisers .Referred to
Health Agent, Jackie Duda. She also asked if Town Hall kitchen would be
available for a grinder sale, I had advised that the Town Hall is currently closed to
the public so a grinder sale at this time is out of the question.

Appointments for FY'21 was only item on the agenda. On a motion by Judy, 2nd by
Tonya, vote was 2-0 the following positions were reappointed for one year:
Accounting, Bev; Town Administrator, Duane; Board of Health Agent, Jackie;
Building Commissioner, Bill; Fire Chief, Ron; Plumbing Inspector, William Zeitler;
Police Chief, Jen; Tax Collector, Mary Ann; Treasurer, Kirsten; EMD/EMS
Director, Ann Marie; Forest Warden, Ron; Recycling Coordinator; Joe; Veteran's
Agent, Steve Connor; Westfield River Wild and Scenic, Carol Waag.

Three year terms: Agricultural Commission, Maureen Sullivan and Mitch
Feldmesser; Conservation Committee, Kim Baker and Wayne Main;
Historical Commission, John Savery and Bill Denault.

Also for one year terms: Registrar of voters, Suzanne Lemieux, Lois Bell, Anita
Myers and Tamarin Laurel-Paine; Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector,
Terry Donovan; ZBA, Mary Courtney, Maureen Sullivan and Sherri Vindetti.

Also, Tom Austin was appointed a police officer for a one year term; in
Ann Marie's absence no vote was taken on appointing Tonya to the Police

Dept. Suzanne was appointed to a one year term as the recording secretary. Both were on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Police Chief, Jen Dion, has requested her appointment be for 3 years, Town By-Laws restrict to a one year appointment. Also, TA to check MGL to see if appointment is restricted to one year. Special legislation was required to allow Highway Superintendent to be given 3 year appointment.

No Old Business; no New Business.

Judy asked Dave if had retained any notes that would be helpful in going forward. Dave said everything he kept is also in the emails, etc.

Judy motioned to adjourn; Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at

6:41pm. Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
July 27, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:34pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Joe Kearns, Finance Chair; Tom Austin,
Police Officer

No warrants available

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0. Ann Marie abstained as she was not present at meeting.

Mail: ZBA holding a 8/4/20 hearing on request by person for use of camper/trailer while building his home on Town Hill Road.

Appointments: on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 Jen Dion was appointed as Police Chief. Tonya abstained as she may have conflict as Police Dept. paid for her training as an officer.

Motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 Tonya was appointed as Police Officer, Tonya abstained.

COA: Lois Bell, Crystal Main and Judy are up for reappointment. On motion by Ann Marie, Judy 2nd; voter 3-0 Lois and Crystal were appointed. On motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0, Judy was appointed. Judy abstained from vote.

Town Center Committee was discussed next as the buildings will be down shortly and the site needs to be addressed. Judy felt the committee should be reappointed for another year. On a motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0 with Judy abstaining the following were reappointed: Jay Swift; Carol Waag-Swift; Maureen Sullivan; Mitch Feldmesser; Dale Hoag and Judy Hoag.

Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, advised he will start the demo of the General Store and adjacent house tomorrow. The site has been fenced and rodent control has been placed in house and store. The site will be watered down to reduce the dust while demoing.

Ann Marie said she will be talking to a prospective candidate for one of the positions she currently holds.

Old Business: discussed a handout for the CodeRed notification calls, many in town have not signed up. TA said he is willing to sign people up if they are having difficult time or do not have internet access.

New business: Opening of Town Hall, TA said he is not in favor of opening completely but by appointment only with definite restriction. Also discussed was how to arrange for plexiglass partitions for the various departments, with the layout of the offices, this may be difficult.

Ann Marie said that littering around town is out of control and could the town enforce fines. Tom said there is no by-law or ordinance but perhaps we could follow the state statutes. Also, the police will be using their speed limit portable sign in an attempt to slow vehicles down once they have a battery.

Judy said Jay Swift would like to be appointed as a liaison between the Town and Comcast once the buildout starts. He will attend the next meeting.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:30

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Twin Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
August 4 ,2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Due to hurricane Isaisas, power outage, etc. meeting was adjourned until tomorrow at 6:30pm,

August 5, 2020 meeting resumed at 6:34pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Jay Swift

Ann Marie stated she had been in contact with MEMA, took a ride around town to inspect damage from the hurricane and Eversource has not been very responsive to the outages in town. This hurricane is a good example why residents should sign up for CodeRed.

Board was scheduled to meet with School Committee member, Sarah Foley but due to power outages she did not attend.

7:05pm Tonya Santaniello arrived at meeting.

Judy said that Jay is willing to be the liaison to Comcast during the construction of the internet in town. Jay said he had done a lot of work prior to the town voting to chose Comcast for the internet provider and this infrastructure is a 40-50-year commitment. If copper is run instead of fiber it will be obsolete technology. The future is fiber from internet to self- driving cars, he will push for Comcast to commit to fiber. He said the State wanted to get high speed internet and urged to go with Comcast. Jay said it is the worst public utility company in the country. Ann Marie said she had favored the wireless-hybrid network that was proposed but the people didn't agree, also, the only bad decision is an uninformed decision. Judy stated we have to move on, Comcast was

selected and we need to get the most for our dollars. Peter Larkin is the contact at MBI, and the town needs just one point person. Jay said the squeaky wheel gets the oil and he will be that squeaky wheel.

Judy motioned to appoint Jay as the liaison to Comcast, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

Judy then motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by
:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard/BOH Minutes
August 11, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:35pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Sarah Foley, School Committee member. Skip
Savery, Highway Superintendent; Joe Kearns, Finance Chair

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$15,701.52; Expenses: \$127,350.32

Skip advised the milling is complete and the paving is to start on Thursday. Also, Peru wanted to know if he would be willing to mow a short section of Arthur Pease Road that he could do when he mows his portion, Skip said that would not be a problem. Judy also asked about the proposed town park on the site of the former general store and adjacent house, the two parcels are very small and would it be a problem if the park extended into the highway property. Skip said he would not have a problem with that.

Sarah advised the board the Gateway has presented a shared hybrid plan to the state for reopening in the fall. This is more structured than the March plan as that was done on an emergency basis as the COVID-19 struck, there is more in place. The school is purchasing “hot spots” for areas that don’t have high speed internet so they could go fully remote. There has been a 10-day reduction in the school year. Special needs, etc., pre-school, kindergarten will be the first to start then the grammar school and then the middle and high school. Currently it looks like Middlefield students in the 3rd and 4th grade will be attending Murryfield in Huntington. Busing still has to be figured with the 6’ distancing but parents will be encouraged to drive their students to school. There was discussion regarding COVID testing and screening.

Minutes of 7/27 approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0.

Discussion about CodeRed and getting more residents to sign up, TA will have large signs made at Staples. Notices had previously been sent out in the quarterly tax bills and there was little response to that.

Old business: Finance Chair said he is waiting for Bev to close out FY’20

New business: it was mentioned that Huntington purchased “good” masks for the Town Hall employees, Ann Marie said Middlefield got 6,000 K95 masks from MEMA. She is looking for an area to store the PPE supplies. TA suggested using the pantry in the kitchen as it currently holds most of the dished, etc. from the time the building was used as a school.

Ann Marie was concerned as there was a person using the Transfer Station and was not wearing a mask. She recommends a sign that says no mask or face covering, no service.

7:30pm Selectboard meeting closed and Board of Health meeting opened.

Review of K-P law's review of BOH order requiring face masks or face coverings be worn in all town buildings. Also reviewed the partial reopening of the Town Hall.

Judy motioned to required masks or face coverings must be worn in the Town Hall or at the Transfer Station, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

7:50pm BOH meeting closed and returned to Selectboard meeting.

Suzanne said she will be holding early voting and will use the same directives she used for the Town voting, one way in the auditorium and out through the rear door.

Judy motioned to pass the emergency order for the partial opening of the Town Hall, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0. This order will require appointments be made in advance with the particular employee if an issue can't be resolved via phone or email.

Police Chief, Jen Dion, stated the office phone, 623-005 is the current number and people can leave a message. She is able to retrieved the messages remotely. She would like to hire another officer, he lives in Becket, is fully trained and had completed the full-time office academy. He has 20 years of experience. He will be able to train Tonya on radar as he is qualified as a radar trainer. Will arrange for him to attend a meeting next week.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Mari Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
August 18, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello; on phone: Judith Hoag, Chair

Duane Pease, Town Administrator; Tom Austin, Police Officer; Michael Marcus, potential police officer appointment; Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Joe Kearns, Finance chair

Meeting held to interview Michael Marcus for a position on the Police Dept.

Judy opened the questioning asking why his interest in the position. Marcus said he always wants to be involved, teach new officers, work with the residents. He has a lot of experience, has previously worked as a full-time officer in Becket and has served as an officer in Huntington. In response to a question of being able to respond to emergencies, he said he lives on route 8 in Becket and is 10 minutes away and would be able to respond. Also, in November he will be spending some time in New York City as part of his full-time job so he wouldn't be available all the time.

Marcus said he has been involved in training officers and would be able to aid in the training of Tonya, she is radar qualified but does not have the necessary hours to do it on her own. He said Police Training is an ongoing endeavor and he enjoys that part of the job.

His police job in Becket required him to be on 4 days and be available to take and answer calls after his shift was over, he had a young daughter at that time and wanted to spend time with his family without having to leave for a call. He had spent 6 years on the force.

There was discussion about his other qualifications, EMT training, Red Cross instructor in first Aid, AED training, borne blood pathogens. He is qualified in pistol, long guns, shot guns and well as low light training. He is a graduate of the full-time police academy. He has much of his own equipment and would only need articles that would identify him as a Middlefield Police Officer.

Judy felt he would be an asset to the town but questioned the police budget for hiring another officer. Tom said much of his work would be in training and there is money in that budget.

Judy motioned to appoint Michael Marcus to the Police Dept., Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 with Tonya abstained as she is a member of the Police Dept.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by”

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
August 25, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Present: Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello; Judith Hoag, Chair participating via phone; Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Joe Kearns, Finance Chair

Also on phone: David DiNicola

Expense warrant of \$28,993.20 signed; payroll warrant not available

Minutes of: 8/4/20 and 8/11/20 approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0
Minutes of 8/18/20 approved on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0

Mail: Contract with Veterans' services reviewed and signed

Dave congratulated the 2 new members of the Board; he went over some of the duties of the Board. He then questioned the June 29th minutes where the Finance Chair (FC) stated if there was to be a Special Town Meeting the Economic Development position should be placed on the warrant; Dave said this item was not on the agenda, Judy said this was not further discussed and the FC just brought it forward. Dave said the Selectboard had removed the article for funding from the Annual Town Meeting warrant and if this were to be presented it should be through a Citizen's Petition. The cost of \$7,000/yr. over 10 years would be \$70,000 and that money could be better spent on items the town needed.

Dave continued with questions regarding the Police Dept., its budget and speeding on Skyline Trail and in the Town Center. He had brought his concerns to the Chief in hopes that there would be radar patrols. There was further discussion about the police, speeding and what the budget would support. Also, last year the P.D. gave back over \$4,000 at the end of the fiscal year. Dave was thanked for his participation.

TA advised the Board the current printer/copier is not compatible with the new computers and he had investigated the cost of a new printer. The State contract for printers has a similar unit available through Macfarlane for \$2,741.24; this unit will also scan, print at a much faster rate and be compatible with all of the computers including the older ones. The current printer is 13 years old and has pretty much outlived its usefulness. On a motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0 TA was authorized to purchase a new printer.

Suzanne spoke to the Board about installing a drop box outside the Town Hall, this would give residents a place to drop off ballots and other pertinent papers for various departments as the COVID virus has the Town Hall closed. TA will check for possibilities.

Ann Marie said some people using the Transfer Station are not wearing masks and a sign stating masks must be worn for entry needs to be posted. A sign will be purchased for the Transfer Station.

Judy questioned what would be required to move the meetings into the auditorium, TA will check to see if a telephone jack can be installed so the meetings can be accessed by residents.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie, 2nr; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at

7:31pm. Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard /Board of Health Minutes
September 22, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti, Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Also present: Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Joe Kearns, Finance Chair; Jen Dion, Police
Chief

Health Agent (HA), Jackie Duda participated via phone.

Warrants reviewed and signed: Payroll: \$15,561.40 and \$2,662.75; Expenses: \$694,541.06 and
\$34,316.88

Mail review: former librarian, Mary Ann Walsh, has filed an unemployment claim against the
town.

Suzanne said someone wanted to contact the police but the answering machine had a generic
greeting and did not identify as the police dept. She gave the person Jen's cell phone # and Jen
was upset. Jen also said they are having trouble setting up the answering machine and haven't
been able to change it. They do retrieve the messages regularly and return calls. She also said that
when calls that go to 911, dispatch contacts her first on the cell, then her father and lastly the
State Police. Since the town pays for the phone, Suzanne felt the cell number should be available
to all that need the P.D. There was continued discussion and TA will help in getting the voice
mail corrected and functioning.

Suzanne also felt the hours that Town personnel are available should be posted since the COVID
virus has closed the Town Hall and when questions arise there is no one to answer them. TA said
the web site contains information for contacting the people but he will also create another sheet
that will be posted on the town web site.

7:07 Board of Health meeting opened and chair selected.

Judy motioned to appoint Ann Marie as BOH chair, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

BOH meeting scheduled to address 2 recent events in town of large gatherings. One was a
gathering at a home on Skyline Trail which was attended by many people and there were a great
number of cars. It appears social distancing and face masks were not in compliance. After
discussion, it was agreed the HA would send registered letter to the resident advising him of
risks, etc.

The second gathering was also on Skyline Trail home, the Police Chief was made aware of this
prior to the event by the resident and he was conducting a gun class for various police officers
and there would be about 40 in the class. Ann Marie said she counted 39 cars in attendance and

saw people walking around without masks on. There were cars from NH and MD there. Jen said she felt confident that masks were worn when the officers were in close contact. No letter will be sent to this address.

BOH meeting adjourned at 7:45 and Selectboard meeting resumed.

Jen said she is usually available Mon-Thurs and Tonya and her father both live in town in case of an officer need and Michael lives in Becket and is only a few minutes away. The current budget allows 3 officers to work 3.5 hours a week, she would like more money in the budget as this is basically a volunteer/part-time dept. Tonya is a new officer and at this time does not want her working alone until she feels comfortable. Jen said she will keep the communication lines open.

New Business: TA advised that Jeanne LeClair, Economic Development Director has submitted her resignation.

Joe said there is no Special Town Meeting on the horizon.

Ann Marie will be meeting with the TA to go over the related COVID expenses that may be reimbursed.

Suzanne said the hours for early voting have been scheduled and posted.

Glendale Falls area has been quiet and police are checking regularly.

Skip to install "Dead End" sign on Harry Pease Road as GPS is directing people that it is a through road.

TA to check with Comcast on status of cable installation.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
October 7, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:34pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Highway
Superintendent, Skip Savery

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$12,940.20 and \$2,072.22; Expenses:
\$14,220.92.

Minutes of 9/22/20 approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0.
Minutes of 8/25/20 approved on motion by Tonya, Judy 2nd vote 2-0 as Ann Marie
called away for a few minutes.

Assessor's contract with Mayflower was discussed, this contract covers the re-
evaluation of the resident's property and is a requirement of the state. After brief
discussion Judy motioned to accept, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 with Tonya
abstaining as she is member of the Assessor board.

Halloween Trick or Treating was next, Board felt this was a decision to be left up
to the individuals whether they wanted to participate or not. Hours would be from
5-7pm and all should practice social distancing, wear masks and hand out the treats
and not let the children stick their hands in a treat bowl. TA will send notice to
Country Journal for publication.

TA advised he had met with Josh Garcia, Town Administrator in Blandford and one
of the interesting items discussed was the fee for Berkshire Dispatch. Josh sent copy
of their agreement and they pay \$4,940.06 for the year. Blandford is more than
twice the size of Middlefield and pays \$4,000 less. This will be looked into and
discussed with the Fire Chief. Ann Marie has made contact with Matt Barstow who
lead the Northampton 9-1-1 dispatch for the State Police. He is sending a
preliminary questionnaire to the Board. Financial consideration is not an item that is
used in determining if we qualify for the no-cost service provided by Northampton.
There was continued discussion regarding this service, current ambulance service at
volunteer EMT level, the increase in elderly in town and need for more advanced
emergency medical care prior to getting to a hospital. Ann Marie stated at one of the
Annual Town Meetings it was agreed that a committee

be formed to address the emergency needs of the Town, that has not happened to date.

Old Business: The Police Dept. answering machine is now functional, it can be accessed remotely and initially tells the caller if it is an emergency to hang up and dial 9-1-1.

TA advised he had spoken with Comcast contact, Eileen Leahy, and they are still waiting on licenses from Verizon. Once they are received Comcast will begin wiring the town for internet.

TA has sent updated contact list to web master to post on Town web site, it gives current hours and phone #'s to contact departments.

Suzanne said a drop box is to be installed tomorrow, it can be used to drop off election ballots, tax payments, etc. She received a \$5,000 grant from the State to aid in the election. She will also post the limits on social gatherings on the sign in front of the Town Hall.

Tonya, speaking as a police officer, said the recent break-ins of vehicles is being investigated by the State Police, most cars were just rummaged through with nothing taken. The cars were unlocked at the time.

Skip said he will be spreading the millings from Skyline Trail on Chipman Road next spring, he has to replace 4 culverts and will be putting a fabric liner on the road. He is 3-4 load short of top soil for the park area where the former store and house were. He is also waiting for the caps for the parking area at the Senior Center, he has left messages for the supplier but has not heard back.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard minutes
October 21, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:06pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti arrived at 6:15pm

Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$19,846.22; Expenses: \$12,324.97 Minutes approved on motion by Judy, with typo correction, 2nd by Tonya; vote 3-0

Suzanne had board sign the warrants for the Presidential Election.

TA advised he would be submitting a grant request to MIIA requesting virus fighting items (fogger, disinfectant, respirator, filters, touchless thermometers as well as 3 sets of chain saw safety equipment for the highway dept.)

There was discussion regarding switching our dispatch service to Northampton, they had sent a questionnaire to be completed and sent back, this would be the first step in a possible switch if the town were accepted. Ann Marie also brought up the fact that a prior Town Meeting had agreed to set up a safety committee to explore what may be needed for the town in the future. That committee was never convened and now may be the time to activate it and work towards the good of the town and its departments.

There was no old business or new business.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, Judy 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
November 4, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Jay Swift

Phoning in: Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Albee's

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$9,282.14; Expenses: \$7,431.94

Minutes reviewed and approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0.

Jay spoke to the Board regarding his review of the Comcast contract with the Town. He said Comcast will run copper wire instead of fiber and in 10 years it will need to be replaced. There are no performance dates or guarantees in the contract and the State is the one holding all the power over this install. There was more discussion regarding this and he is willing to rattle any cage he has to get what the town needs. TA said he would follow up with Eileen Leahy at Comcast, they have bi-weekly meetings with Verizon, Eversource and MBI to discuss progress. Board thanked Jay for his input.

Old business: TA advised lower rate for Berkshire Dispatch for Blandford was because they have a repeater on their antenna at the highway garage.

Also brought up by Ann Marie was the Safety Committee that was discussed at an Annual Town Meeting. A meeting will be held on November 13th at 2:30pm. TA will contact fire chief. There was brief additional discussion regarding this committee.

The radar sign was also discussed, this sign attaches to a vehicle with suction cups and that makes it difficult to be placed and then left alone.

The Town's population is aging and the possibility of having Hilltown Ambulance provide service was discussed. TA will contact director and obtain a cost of this service. Hilltown offers a paramedic service on most of their shifts and with the aging population, this could be a great benefit. We currently are paying \$2,000 a year to Hinsdale for their volunteer service that is staffed by EMT's.

New business: Ann Marie stated the governor has issued new orders to combat the COVID pandemic, it limits indoor gatherings to 10 people and outdoor to 25. Requires all to wear a mask whether indoors or outdoors and imposes a curfew.

Public input: Suzanne questioned where to put the flags on Veteran's Day, previously they were placed around the building and in the parking area. The parking area is now paved so it was agreed to place the flag in front of the building.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
November 18, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Skip Savery, Highway
Superintendent

On phone: Azure Green

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$17,668.31; Expenses:
\$25,957.39

Minutes approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0

Skip requested the Board sign his Chapter 90 request for the 2nd payment on the Freightliner truck, Board Signed. He also advised that Becket Road in Washington will be closed from December 4th through February 28th as the damaged bridge will be replaced with an arch culvert. Washington will put up signage prior to closing.

Possibility of holding future meetings via Zoom was discussed. Tonya has had experience with Zoom meetings and told the Board of various plans available, there is a free basic that allows up to 40 minutes, another pay plan has a charge of \$150/year with no time limit. There was continued discussion on this and how various committees, etc. would be able to access. Judy felt having the meetings on Zoom would make them more accessible for residents. It was agreed to try the free basic meeting to start for the next Selectboard meeting. Public input would be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Ann Marie provided an update on the COVID-19 virus; it is exploding all over the area and it is important to follow the Governor's strict guidelines. She also recommended that all Town employees have access

to and wear the N95 face masks. Also, to have TA email webmaster to update the Town web site regarding the size of gatherings.

There was not old business or new business to discuss nor any public input.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard minutes
December 2, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Judy Hoag attending via Zoom; Ann Marie on phone as she could not access on Zoom and will be coming in.

Duane Pease, Town Administrator; also, unidentified party on Zoom and Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk on Zoom although having problems.

Warrants: Payroll: \$11,237.79; Expenses: \$248,730.65

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0 as Ann Marie had not arrived yet.

Extended discussion on problems with our initial Zoom meeting; working out the bugs as meeting went along.

CodeRed: Judy questioned Emergency and general notifications and if it was known how many had just signed up for emergency notifications. Also, discussion on who should authorize any general notification, it was agreed the Selectboard would authorize general notifications. Emergency notices will still be sent out by Ann Marie. Town has made endless attempts to make residents aware of CodeRed via tax bills, web notices, signs at Transfer Station, Senior Center, sign in front of Town Hall, etc. Can't force people to sign up.

Pot holes on some of the dirt road was mentioned, however, until the roads dry out, grading is impossible.

Tonya motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
December 7, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Assessors Laura Lafreniere and Tamarin Laurel-Payne; Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Meeting was for Tax Classification

Marin gave handout to board (attached).

Explained that meeting was to decide if town was to have a commercial and residential rate or just one rate. Marin explained the process and ramifications of each. For FY'21 the town has an excess capacity of \$274,540, that means it could raise that amount in addition to the budget approved at Town Meeting. These funds could be used for emergencies, etc. new growth has been flat as only 1 permit taken out for new house construction, other permits were for improvements, additions, etc. large increase in commercial was due to a re-evaluation of Eversource's utility holdings in town. The assessors joined other communities in hiring a specialist to determine the proper value.

There was continued discussion including sales analysis's that assessors conduct each year, what effect Comcast's cable ownership will have as they will be a taxable entity.

If approved the FY'21 tax rate would be \$17.70

Ann Marie motioned to again have a single tax rate in Middlefield, July 2nd; vote was 2-0 for Single tax rate.

Assessors will await approval of new rate by DOR.

Judy motioned for a No vote on the residential open space exemption, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Selectboard Minute
December 16, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Judith Hoag, Chair on Zoom
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent
Doreen Black; Suzanne Lemieux both on Zoom.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$22,904.20; Expenses: \$136,320.05

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Ann Marie Visconti arrived at 6:35pm.

Army Corp of Engineers is requesting permission to do watershed snow study on town property. Location is behind the Town Hall, board agreed and Judy sign the permission letter.

Ann Marie followed up with CodeRed to get breakdown of how residents signed up for notifications. 260 signed up for emergency; 241 for general notifications by phone calls. One TTD; 60/57 for email and 73/63 for text notifications. There was discussion regarding additional sign-ups, notices have been put up at Transfer Station, mailings in tax bills, etc. Also, the town web site has the sign-up info. Judy suggested the general notification be used to refer residents to the web site for up-to-date info.

Doreen Black said she was contacted by an 83-year-old woman who has been trying to find out if a portion of her property on Harry Pease Road could be subdivided. She was not sure when the road ended. I had also spoken with this woman and referred her to the Building Commissioner as the first step in determining this. Additional discussion held and Skip said he believed the gate at the end of the road was the end of the Town road. He would check with his Chapter 90 records to determine where the road ended.

Skip advised the Board the International was back at the dealers and repair estimate is \$13,500. He has checked around to see if this could be repaired at another facility but due to computer controls other garages were reluctant to take this on. After discussion of past issues with the truck, Judy felt it needs to be repaired either way and to get it done.

Eleanor Doyle requested reappointments to the Cultural Council: Christine Ciosek, Kathy Rock Nakaya, Larry Pease, Mary Christine Bresnahan and Sharon Barry. Also, new appointments for Charlene Gero and Donald Doyle. Ann Marie motioned to appoint, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and all appointed.

Zoom licenses were discussed, Tonya is most familiar with this as in another town where she also does some work, they opted to purchase 3 licenses. One for Selectboard, one for Assessors and third for general use by other boards/departments. Tonya will further research number of licenses needed. Judy motioned to purchase licenses as necessary, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

Ann Marie discussed the COVID vaccine that is becoming available and how it could be distributed in our area. Suzanne said our nurses had been contacted but the town was too small to have a distribution but would be notified when and where a site would be located for the vaccine. Board felt Health Agent, Jackie Duda, should be involved as well.

TA requested the Town Hall be closed December 24th for the long Christmas Holiday, this would also include the Highway Department. Board agreed, TA will have it posted on the web site.

Next meeting 12/30/20 at 6:00pm.

Judy motioned to adjourn; Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
December 30, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Participating via Zoom. Judith Hoag, Chair

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$9,634.81; Expenses \$8,492.46 and \$7,329.20

Minutes of 12/7 approved on motion by Ann Marie, Judy 2nd; vote 2-0 with Tonya abstaining as she was not present at meeting.

Minutes of 12/16 approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0.

No pertinent mail to review.

Used car licenses for Country Cars and Big Picture Agency signed by board, TA will contact so they can be picked up.

Old business: Tonya said that to purchase a zoom license the cost is \$149.90 for one year. There was discussion regarding purchase of license and how many. It was decided to purchase 2 licenses, one for the exclusive use of the Selectboard and the 2nd for use by other boards, committees, commissions, etc. for the rest of the Town. Some may have to change their scheduled meetings so the license can be shared.

Judy said that the town needs to be proactive for our seniors during this time as the COVID vaccine becomes available. We will offer help with completing the forms required for obtaining appointments for the shots. Ann Marie said that the town is too small for a vaccination clinic to be held here and the residents will have to travel to other locations once the vaccination is available.

Loren Davine, HPHPC, nurse requested list of First Responders and Police for the next phase of vaccinations, the same was also requested by John Garriepy of Northampton Fire. TA will obtain list from fire Chief and Police Chief and send down.

EMD grant signed, requesting Rescue Sled and additional signage. TA will send signed contact to State.

Fax machine has been ordered for the Fire Dept. and once installed TA will have web site updated to show fax and numbers of Chief and Deputy on the site.

Last discussed was Board's use of Zoom meeting, Judy wondered if there was any way to let participants know Board sees and acknowledges them. This has been a learn as you go experience for all.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard minutes
January 27, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti; on Zoom: Judith Hoag,
Chair
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Other participant: Ken Murray on Zoom

Warrants approved and signed; Payroll: \$18,374.56; Expenses:
\$72,174.24

Minutes approved on motion by Tonya, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

Mail: letter from HPHPC reviewed regarding clinics in Hampshire
County, over 75 will be eligible for vaccine starting February 1st.

Board discussed using CodeRed to advise citizens of vaccine and will
give phone numbers for COA Director, Lois, and TA for those that may
need help in signing up. Some may just need help in understanding the
on-line sign up. First Responders/Police/Fire will be scheduling for their
2nd shots. Ron will follow up with Fire Dept.

TA will place ad in Country Journal for Health Agent and will follow
with Laura at Berkshire Regional Planning to see if they have a Health
Agent that would be willing to do work in Middlefield.

Comcast update: Construction has begun and barring unforeseen issues
aerial drops will be installed mid to late April and underground installs
in May as they will be frost dependent.

No Old Business or New Business; no Public Input.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
February 10, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:37pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti; Chair Judith Hoag attending via phone after issues with Zoom at 6:40; Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Minutes approved on motion by Tonya, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$16,212.63; Expenses: \$109,605.42.

No mail for review.

CodeRed was discussed; Ann Marie would like to have another person be able to post notices to system. Notifications go out via phone, email and text; there is one TTD recipient. Discussion of Police having access, either Jenny or Tonya. This will be further investigated.

Ann Marie still has not been able to access selectboard email, she will check with Steve for help. Tonya had the access information and gave it to Ann Marie.

Police Chief, Jen Dion, met with Board; she would like to have Matt Radwich reinstated as an officer. He is still qualified and Michael would give refresher course. Benefit is that he lives in town and readily available. Jen's budget can afford another officer and he would be required to do a certain number of hours monthly. Matt would do regular shift, radar, follow up and accident response. Officers are responsible for shift reports after every shift they do. Judy said she would like to have the department do more and have more of a presence in town. Judy motioned to bring Matt back on the force, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 with Tonya abstaining as she is a town police officer.

No old business.

New business: Kathe Warden, Chester Town Administrator, sent email to neighboring towns to see if any were interested in sharing a Human Resource position. At this point Middlefield would not be interested.

No public input.

Judy motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ann Marie 2nd ; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard minutes
March 10, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti; Duane Pease, Town Administrator
Absent: Judith Hoag, Chair

Attending via Zoom: Sarah Foley, School Committee member; Suzanne Lemieux,
Town Clerk; Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$20,615.88; Expenses: \$20,649.69

Minutes approved on motion by Tonya, Ann Mari 2nd; vote 2-0.

Mail reviewed: Free Cash certified in amount of \$165,097

Sarah met with Board to discuss next year's budget for the Gateway Regional School District. She is the only representative for Middlefield although 2 are allowed. She explained the school committee is recommending the alternative budget which would have to be approved by the six towns, this budget would result in an increase of 1.78% for the town over last year's budget. This would result in a cost of \$503,566. The statutory budget would result in a decrease of over \$100,000 to Middlefield and lower our share to \$387,592. There was continued discussion on the budget and towns effected; Blandford and Middlefield are the only towns that would see a decrease if the statutory method was used. This will be discussed further by the board prior to finalizing the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Sarah was thanked for her dedication and service to the town.

There was brief discussion regarding the position of Health Agent now that Jackie Duda has resigned. It was agreed to hire Ed Fahey from Berkshire Planning in the interim to compete the fiscal year. A contract will be sent and reviewed at the next selectboard meeting.

Suzanne requested the board approve dates for the caucus, ATM and voting. The caucus would be on May 19th from 4-8pm and held in the Town Hall auditorium; voting would be on June 26th from 8:00am-1:00pm and the ATM at 2pm and held at the Fair Grounds pending approval by the Fair. These dates and times were approved on a motion by Ann Marie; Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Snow budget is being overspent and additional monies needed to fund it through the season. Ann Marie motioned to increase by \$10,000, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0.

Curt Robie presented an article to be placed on the ATM warrant requesting funding so the basketball court may be resurfaced.

Ann Marie wanted to know status of the Town Center Park; this will have to wait until Judy returns as she is involved with that committee.

Ann Marie felt since the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. have received the COVID vaccines it may be appropriate to have First Responder and CPR classes as these were interrupted by the COVID shut down last year. She believes Steve Baker may be willing to run these classes.

Tonya motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at

7:35pm. Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted by:

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
April 21, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:37pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello Duane Pease, Town Administrator

Doreen Black, Planning Board (PB) Chair on Zoom; had questions for Selectboard. PB budget is \$500 and they are working on a By-law amendment and need to have it reviewed by Town Counsel (TC), was advised the budget for TC would cover the charges if approved by the board, board agreed to cover cost. Also, PB has approved a plot plan for property on Town Hill Road and had left copies for Town Clerk and Assessors.

Warrants approved and signed; Payroll: \$17,046.51; Expenses: \$24,845.97

Minutes approved on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

Members of Fire Dept. were present, including Chief, Ron Radwich and Deputy Chief, Larr Pease as well as Diane and Crystal. They were in attendance to review draft of letter proposed to be sent to residents regarding possible change in ambulance service from Hinsdale to Hilltown Community Ambulance. Question was asked why the need to change from a service that has been serving the town for a number of years and who recommended it. Ann Marie said she looked into the change as the COVID research showed that 42% of the Town's residents were elderly and based on this she wanted to make sure the ambulance service would address the needs of these residents.

Ron said the solution was simple: offer Hilltown the same \$2,000 that Hinsdale charges for their service.

Diane commented that she reviewed the charges for Chester from Hilltown and it increased every year and that there was an additional charge for a funding a replacement ambulance in addition to the yearly charge. Also, when a medical call comes into Berkshire, if it meets certain criteria, an ALS ambulance is dispatched from Pittsfield at the same time.

Ron said Hilltown ran a First Responder/CPR class for Middlefield and the people left more confused after the class. There was continued discussion regarding the services provided, Hilltown covers 6 towns while Hinsdale provided service to 3 towns, how would dispatch be affected as Berkshire knows what other ambulances are available if Hinsdale is on another call or not able to provide service.

Judy felt Middlefield Emergency Responders could make suggestions as to what they would want included on any mailing sent to residents and that we should have a representative of Hilltown attend the next meeting to have them make their presentation and answer any questions but the final decision will be up the residents at the ATM. Larry said it should just be Hilltown as the department already knows what Hinsdale does and has to offer, he also said he has worked

with Hilltown when they have been dispatched to town and they were wonderful to work with but the current service is fine. It was agreed that Hilltown will be asked to attend.

Next item was the gift donation of a gazebo for the Town Center from the Middlefield Benevolent Association (MBA). Judy explained the function of the MBA and when and why it was created. On a motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd and vote of 2-0 Judy abstained, the donation was accepted. Letter signed by members of MBA attached to minutes.

New business: on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; it was voted 3-0 to increase the Snow budget by another \$7,000. This will cover all additional snow costs associated with the winter.

Judy said that a resident asked for permission to use the fire pit at the Town Hall for a memorial gathering. Board agreed to allow as long as there is no fire danger.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
May 5, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Angela Mulkerin, Director of Hilltown
Community Ambulance (HCAA); Members of Fire Dept.: Ron Radwich; Larry
Pease; Crystal Kruzyna and Diane Lewis.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$17,337.88; Expenses: \$11,795.41
Minutes reviewed and approved with changes on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote
3-0.

Town Clerk presented Caucus Warrant for board to sign, signed by board
members.

Angela Mulkerin presented HCAA proposal for providing service to Middlefield.
Angela has been a paramedic for 13 years and at HCAA for 7 years. She said
HCAA has contracts with all 6 towns they provided service to and the contract
requires 66% of shifts to be at the paramedic level and currently they are at 80%. In
2020 they received 708 calls and were able to answer 94% of them with only 6%
passed to their mutual aid coverage departments. They provide staffed coverages
24 hours/day. Angela stated there is a difference between EMS and Paramedic
service; paramedic service can administer a variety of meds for various health and
trauma injuries prior to arrival at the hospital, can discuss case remotely with
doctor and treat appropriately. EMS cannot administer meds.

HCAA has an annual budget of \$690,000 with 34% coming from member towns
and the balance from service billings. HCAA also has an Internship Program
associated with Gateway high School, are involved with community activities with
COA's, give instruction in CPR/First Responders, work with the Worthington and
Huntington Health Centers and provide training to the fire departments. They also
have a subscription program, this allows members to have any charges not covered
by insurance to be waived, the program costs are: \$50 for single; \$70 for couple
and \$90 for family. The 6 towns covered are billed on a per capita basis, currently
it is \$24.24, there is also an additional \$1.99/capita charge for ambulance upgrade.
The cost to Middlefield would be at a reduced rate of \$17.24 for the first year
(\$9,214) and then an increase of 2% for the next two years and the fourth year
would be the same rate as the other 6 towns.

Judy asked what the yearly increases are and was told they average around 2% a year. She also questioned if the ambulance was not available, who would respond, Angela said an ambulance would be sent from a mutual aid provider closest to the call. HCAA has signed contracts with their mutual aid partners to provide coverage. Also, if the ambulance is staffed by EMT's and the call requires Paramedic care and intercept it arranged with a paramedic ambulance.

Crystal said from her experience, Hinsdale does a good job even though they are not staffed and respond on a volunteer basis. Ann Marie said she had talked with our State Rep., Natalie Blais and discussed regionalization of the services. There was continued discussion regarding the ambulance services provided to the town, regionalization and options for residents when it came to choosing a hospital as Hinsdale only goes to Berkshire Medical Center while HCAA goes to the 6 area hospitals. Angela was thanked for her presentation.

Mail: FRCOG sent letter requiring a contact for the bids, Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, was designated and form will be emailed back.

MFD letter supporting Hinsdale was reviewed and discussed. Judy also said she mentioned the ambulance issue at the Senior Center and most there felt they were okay with the present ambulance. Diane said that Ron should speak with the Hinsdale chief about possible regionalization.

TA advised he would be posting bid requests for diesel, propane and heating oil in the Country Journal. Also, Chester Electric is going to replace the pump at their gas tank and was looking for a contribution on the repairs. This is where Middlefield obtains their gas for the Police Cruisers, new pick-up truck, chain saws, lawn mowers, pumps, etc. TA will get a firm price and advise board.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
May 19, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:33pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; absent: Tonya Santaniello Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Fire Dept. members: Ron Radwich; Larry Pease; Diane Lewis; Crystal Kruzyna.

Minutes with addition of last names approve on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0.

Board met with Fire Dept. to review letter regarding ambulance service provided to town by Hinsdale and possible service provided by Hilltown Community Ambulance. After much discussion it was agreed that both letters submitted stating their position would be left as is with the cost of Hilltown added to their letter. There will be discussion about both options at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and vote.

Mail: Judy signed the contract with Berkshire Health Alliance that will provide Town with Public Health nurse.

Board then met with members of the Finance Committee to review draft of the ATM warrant. Articles 3, 4, 5 6, 7 & 8 were agreed upon with exception of the Assessor's budget which has not been submitted to date. Article 9 deals with public safety, the Police portion of the budget was passed over at this time, the rest were agreed upon with exception of Dog Officer's Salary and Animal Inspector's Salary, after discussion it was agreed to raise Dog Officer to \$1,000 and Animal Inspector to \$750. Board of Health agent was also raised to \$5,000 as that is contract price with Berkshire Health Alliance.

Articles 10, 11 & 12 were reviewed and agreed. Article 13 deals with Alternative financing of Gateway budget, this would increase the Town's cost by \$115,974 over the Statutory budget, board agreed not to recommend at ATM.

Only question the Board had was of Fire Dept. request for \$27,715 to purchase off-road rescue vehicle, would like Fire Chief to provide more details at next SB meeting. Article 25 will be corrected to show how purchase of new truck will be paid for/financed, TA will advise Finance on wording. Also discussion of Article 27 requesting \$10,000 repair, repaving and lining of the basketball court.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard/Board of Health Meeting
May 26, 2021
Minutes

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Meeting called as an Emergency meeting as Conservation Committee (CC) requested to deal with aerial spraying by State. Selectboard also serves as Board of Health

Present: Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello; on phone conference call: Judith Hoag, Chair. Also present: Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Carol Waag-Swift CC member. Sherri Venditti also on phone.

Discussion was on the spraying to protect against EEE and West Nile viruses, there were less cases in State last year compared to prior years and spraying effects bees, dragon flies, fish and beetles. If Town opts out of spraying an alternative plan will have to be developed. Carol agreed to draft educational materials that can be made available to residents as well as posters to be placed around Town.

After hearing the pros and cons of aerial spraying, Judy motioned to opt out of the spraying, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0.

TA will complete the opt-out forms and submit to State.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by;

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
June 9, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Minutes of 5/19 approved with one addition of motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0

Minutes of 5/26 approved on motion by Judy, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 3-0

Comcast agreement reviewed and signed; this is for 100% coverage for town.

Board agreed to recognized June 19th as the Juneteenth holiday, Town Hall will be closed for 6/18 and 6/19.

Fire Chief, Ron Radwich, met with board to review his request for an all-terrain vehicle so the department would be able to access remote areas in town when current vehicles would not be able to get close to injured person. Discussion on type of vehicle and cost, state bid may be available for such a vehicle. Also, where unit would be stored, used storage container is possibility. TA gave names of 2 companies that town has used in the past. Ann Marie questioned the location of the 4 infant CPR dolls that were purchased at \$1,000 and now are missing.

Fair has asked for ok to sell grinders to go during the town meeting, TA will follow with Health Agent. Also, would like to have a pancake breakfast.

Discussion on location of ATM, Fair Grounds vs Town Hall. Board agreed that Fair Grounds would be best location for safety reasons. Judy motioned for Fair, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0. Eleanor Doyle has volunteered her PA system for the meeting.

Board continued review of proposed ATM Warrant, no immediate concerns, final warrant for signing at next meeting.

Old business: Boston Symphony Orchestra will be resuming their run-a-thon and will be passing through Middlefield on 7/3. Board okayed use of Town Hall for rest stop as in years prior to COVID virus.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello

Selectboard Minutes
June 30, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:45pm, severe weather delayed opening meeting

Present: Tonya Santaniello; Ann Marie Visconti
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Ed Fahey, Health Agent

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$7,002.40; Expenses: \$19,448.01

Minutes approved on motion by Tonya, Ann Marie 2nd; vote 2-0

George Propane submitted late bid for supplying propane, price of \$1.65/gal.
Board voted to accept, TA to notify Georges.

Board met with Health Agent, Ed Fahey. Reviewed current fees for various and Ed recommended we increase to be inline with other towns. Septic system installer increase from \$50 to \$125; Septic pumper from \$50 to \$125; Construction permit for major increased to \$250 from \$100, minor repair increased from \$100 to \$125. Perc test witness fee to remain at \$200 for first 4 hours or part thereof and \$50 for each additional hour, no change in that fee; Title 5 witness fee of \$100 previously no witnessing. Food permits were discussed and board agreed to stay as before, no fee. There are only 2 food permits issued, Azure Green and Fair.

Ed has discussed food service with Fair and okayed the grinder sale during the ATM. Advised Fair to have building commissioner and fire chief inspect dining hall prior to fair to make sure it can be safely operated. Board thanked Ed for attending meeting.

Tonya spoke to Board as a police officer for the Town, a speeding ticket she issued is being contended and the operator has asked for additional information regarding radar certification, her certification, other calls, etc. She was given permission to refer matter to Town Counsel for guidance.

Ann Marie motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Tonya Santaniello

Ann Marie visconti