

Chairman Germain opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

In attendance were: Selectmen A. Battistini, M. Germain, B. Giovanoni, N. Demers and N. Rosenthal. Also present were Town Manager, R. Nunes and Executive Assistant, Colleen Lieb.

This meeting was recorded by MCCAM for broadcast on Comcast and Verizon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Demers the Board vote to enter into Executive Session to Return to Open Sessions for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation that if done in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares – GMEG. Polled vote: Selectmen A. Battistini - Aye, M. Germain - Aye, B. Giovanoni - Aye, N. Demers - Aye and N. Rosenthal - Aye

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 PM and Chairman Germain asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNANTICIPATED

Chairman Germain announced that the Board discussed the GMEG contract and took no action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

Selectmen Demers read an announcement from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). “The Green Communities Division has awarded the Town of Middleborough \$98,527.00 for lighting replacements in the Middleborough Public Library and Council on Aging. These projects are estimated to reduce lighting energy consumption by 73.4% in the Council on Aging and 65.8% in the Middleborough Public Library, saving an estimated total of 89,604 kWh annually.”

Selectmen Battistini announced the first Annual Middleborough Pride Festival to be held on June 18, 2022 from 12 PM to 4 PM and noted that the event is looking for volunteers. Please reach out to middleboropridefest@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes as amended.

WARRANTS

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Demers, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman or his designee to sign the Warrants for Week ending: 5/21/2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectmen Battistini thanked J. Ruthwicz for her work with the Housing Authority and the Community Preservation Committee.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted unanimously to accept the notice of retirement from Josephine Ruthwicz effective June 30, 2022.

Vote to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support for the Four Corners Village LLC project located at 49 North Main Street – Patrick Brady

Patrick Brady, Brady Capital Advisors, LLC, was present for the discussion. P. Brady provided draft plans to the Board for review. The plans presented show the layout of the apartments as well as the layout for the ground floor business area. The Board discusses the changes made to the apartments and it is noted the rent will be \$1,100 for a studio and \$1,350 for a one bedroom. The Board discusses the need for affordable housing in Town.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Demers and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support for the Four Corners Village, LLC.

Discuss/Vote to Hire an Assessment Testing company for the Position of Fire Chief

Lance Benjamino, Fire Chief, was present for the discussion. Chief Benjamino spoke about his recommendation to hire an assessment testing company to evaluate the candidates. R. Nunes, noted that he has received approximate 7-10 resumes so far. The Board discusses the importance of evaluating the candidates and the cost of \$12,000. Selectmen Rosenthal confirms that the assessment testing company will do the Town's internal candidates also. The Chief confirms this.

The Chief spoke to the Board about the areas he recommends the Assessment Testing Company look at. He spoke about assessing the candidate's ability to manage and command an emergency incident. He also suggested the assessing of the candidates problem solving abilities, such as an internal issue with the Fire Department and assess the ability to deal with personnel issues in general. R. Nunes noted that the Town Manager's Office will work with the Fire Chief on a scope and will solicit three or four assessment firms.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted unanimously to hire an Assessment Testing Company, with a not to exceed amount of \$12,000 for the position of Fire Chief to assess five (5) candidates with the top three (3) to be provided to the Board for interviewing.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Battistini and seconded by Selectmen Giovanoni, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dawn A. Craig to the Council on Aging Board of Directors for a three year term to expire June 30, 2025.

Emily Surette, Assistant to the Town Manager, was present for the discussion. E. Surette explained the request to include the 17-acer parcel to the lease for Soule Homestead.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted unanimously to include the 17-acer parcel, Assessor's Map 025, Lot 855 into the lease for Soule Homestead.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Demers and seconded by Selectmen Rosenthal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of the streetlight located at Gateway Estates to the Town's street lighting payment schedule.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Demers and seconded by Selectmen Battistini, the Board voted to approve the reimbursement in the amount of \$36 to Donna Johnson, for brochure changes, to be paid out of the Weston Forest Fund. Motion Carries. 4-0-1 (*B. Giovanoni abstains*)

Discuss/Consider the Creation of a "Study Committee" to report back to the Board on "Green Burials"

Jeff Stevens, resident, was present for the discussion. J. Stevens presented to the Board, his idea to look at the possibility of "Green Burials". He referenced his May 12, 2022 letter to the Board asking them to consider the creation of a Town "study committee" to research the possibility of using Town of Middleboro land as a site for "green burials" of un-embalmed bodies in appropriate town owned conservation land. He spoke briefly about the history of embalming and some statistics. The Board discusses the pros/cons of a "study committee" and whether they are in favor or not. Selectmen Battistini offered to put together a motion to be presented at the next meeting for the Board to consider. This will be reviewed further.

HEARINGS MEETINGS AND LICENSES

There is nothing discussed.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Robert Nunes, Town Manager, reviewed the Town Manager's Report. The report covered May 9, 2022 through May 13, 2022. He confirmed that the Council on Aging Board of Director's Vacancy was posted on the Town website in April. He noted that there will be line painting done on Center Street and John Glass Square. There is a brief discussion on the increase in the cost of chemicals for both the Water and Wastewater Departments.

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

There is nothing discussed,

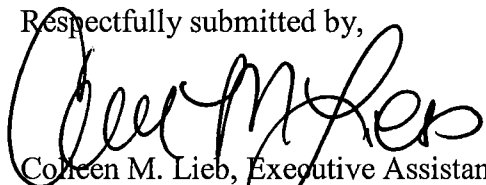
CORRESPONDENCE

There is nothing discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Selectmen Giovanoni and seconded by Selectmen Demers, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen M. Lieb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen M. Lieb, Executive Assistant

MIDDLEBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN