

**Town of Middlesex
Regular Meeting
July 9, 2020**

Present: Wayne Dunton, Supervisor
Denise Adam, Councilwoman
Leon Button, Councilman
Peter Gerbic, Councilman

Absent: James Grant, Councilman

Also Present: Todd Conaway, Highway Superintendent
Dawn Kane, Code Enforcement Officer
Sabra Dunton, Bookkeeper/Reading Center Specialist
Patrick Grimaldi, Assessor

Recording Secretary: Lynnette Miller, Clerk

Supervisor Dunton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex. Everyone in attendance wore face masks and social distanced following recommended CDC guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Dunton requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Adam, seconded by Councilman Gerbic.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Assessor – Pat Grimaldi

- The final tax roll was filed July 1st.
- There will be a revaluation of properties next year.

Highway/Buildings/Grounds – Todd Conaway

- Plans are in place for Clean Up Days scheduled for August 15 & 16. There will be no additional help from the County as in previous years. Superintendent Conaway will make a couple contacts for additional help. Todd will need some small bills to make change for people. Legislator Bronson asked if anyone had checked into getting help from people who have been required to serve community service. After a brief discussion, Legislator Bronson said he would contact Sharon Dawes to check on the possibility.
- Superintendent Conaway reported that Truck #5 is back up at Beam Mack for repairs after over an \$8,000 repair last month. Todd is waiting to get a report.
- The loader discussed last month will be rented for a month beginning Wednesday. The rent paid will apply toward the cost to purchase if it works out.
- Councilman Button asked how the guys are coming along with roadwork. Superintendent Conaway stated that dirt roads have been oiled. Gravel will go on South Hill and State land.

- NYS completed work on Route 364 yesterday. Marking is left to be done.
- Supervisor Dunton added that the Town is expecting to lose up to 20% in the CHIPS program. Superintendent Conaway will be looking into work on South Lake Rd.

Code Enforcement – Dawn Kane

- The code office is very busy with inspections and new builds.
- A couple property clean-ups have been completed. With the help of the State, the vehicle sales property in town was cleaned up. Vehicles had been parked in the Town/State right-of-way. The State highway personnel expressed hope that the Town would plant shrubs in that area along the road to deter further parking of cars. A brief discussion ensued.
- Code Officer Kane is working on an issue of removing squatters who have taken over a residence in the Town whose owner lives in the Hudson Valley.
- The septic tank at the Vine Valley beach was emptied this week. One lifeguard application was received yesterday that will be placed on file. There is still a lack of lifeguards to operate, so it does not look promising that swimming at the beach will be allowed this summer.
- Robert Ostrander sent a letter to the Town regarding toxic materials being burned at the residence across from his house. A copy of the letter was given to Board Members. Code Officer Kane made a visit. The situation has been cleaned up. There were additional property maintenance violations at this mobile home which is used as rental property. Dawn clarified for the Board that this would typically be a DEC issue, however, due to the pandemic and officers working from home, she handled the complaint. The homeowner has been cooperative. She is following up with Robert Ostrander.

Planning Board – Marty De Vinney

- In Marty De Vinney's absence Code Officer Kane reported that it was a light month for the Planning Board.
- Supervisor Dunton mentioned that the Planning Board is requesting a couple changes to the Town zoning laws. He asked Code Officer Kane to give an explanation to the Board. She reported that clarification is needed regarding pole barn structures for residential personal use, non-agriculture. Pole barns for agriculture use are not covered by the Code Enforcement office. Town Attorney Jeff Graff is reviewing to make sure the wording is correct. The second is regrading camping units. Under the law a camping unit can be many things. For this purpose, referring to a structure such as a camping cottage; small, built for part-time use, perhaps with a bathroom/living room and no kitchen. Currently this can be done with only a permit. This should be re-worded so that approval is given from the planning board for site plan review. The Town attorney is checking this definition for clarification. Code Officer Kane will report back to the Board next month with his recommendations and to ask for a resolution from the Board.

ZBA – Arthur Radin

- In the absence of Chairman Radin, Code Officer Kane reported that there had been no business to report for the ZBA.

Water District Superintendent – Alan Williams

- Supervisor Dunton reported in Superintendent Williams absence that Alan Williams, Bill Williams, MRB Engineer JP and Supervisor Dunton will meet at the Town Hall on July 16th at

10:00 to discuss the engineering study to replace lines in the water district. Board Members are also welcome to attend.

- Water Collector Sabra Dunton also reported that there was an error in the water billing from the Village of Rushville so the quarterly water report is not available for tonight's meeting.

Historian/Heritage Group – Dan Robeson

No report. Due to the pandemic all activities are on hold.

Legislator's Report – Ed Bronson

- The County saved over \$100,000 on paving this year due to the lower price of asphalt. Roads that were repaved were Italy Valley Rd. and Friend Rd.
- Regarding the Democratic Primary held in June, there were approximately 1000 votes cast, 800 were mail-in. Early voting had 40 people voting over nine days.
- DMV is open by appointment only. Pistol permits are issued by appointment only through the County Clerk's Office. Grand jury is expected to convene next week. Also, next week the Traffic Diversion Program for minor traffic infractions will restart.
- Finger Lakes Community Health will be offering COVID-19 tests one day/week.
- Those taking the Certified First Responders and Fire training that was interrupted due to the pandemic are finishing up and taking their tests via computer.
- The County Planning Board has two at-large positions.
- Work has begun on the 2021 County budget.
- Regarding Medicaid, the County gets \$315,400 this year through assistance from the Federal government. The NYS Governor is holding \$7,000 per week back from this payment instead of a lump sum payment.
- The County is looking into creating the position of finance director. That would be in addition to having an elected County Treasurer.

Public Comments – none

Town Clerk – Lynnette Miller

- The Town Clerk's monthly report was given to the Town Board.
- Clerk Miller informed the Board that a letter was received from the DEC that they are terminating the clerk's ability to sell hunting and fishing licenses due to lack of sales. During 2019 the revenue to the Town for licenses sold was \$48.00.
- Clerk Miller reported that she has had two recent contacts from individuals, one from Elmira and one from Binghamton saying they have each had automatic withdrawals from their checking account on June 2nd that were paid to Middlesex-Yates. One person had a second withdrawal in July. Neither person authorized the payments and neither person knows what the payment was for. Clerk Miller explained that she only accepts cash or checks and she also knows nothing about these amounts withdrawn. She suggested to each person that their bank investigate. In addition, Clerk Miller called the Yates County Sheriff's office to make a report in the event that there are more calls or additional withdrawals from these same people, there is a record.
- The Town newsletter has been delivered to Moore Printing in Canandaigua for printing. If all goes well, it will be mailed by Friday, July 17th.

Librarian – Sabra Dunton

The Middlesex Reading Center was notified that it must begin the process of becoming a chartered library by the end of the year in order to continue to receive funds from the Southern Tier Library System and New York State. Sabra informed the Board that this was happening at a meeting earlier in the year. In the event that the Board decides not to go in that direction, the reading center will not be able to borrow books or get any assistance from the Southern Tier Library System or any other library entity. A budget needs to be formulated and Sabra explained to the Board that she intentionally raised her budget for 2020 to nearly \$10,000 in order to prepare. The director of the Southern Tier Library System would like to meet with the Board to get started on the budget process. Sabra is suggesting Thursday, July 23rd at 4:00. Supervisor Dunton made the suggestion that Win Harper be invited to the meeting since he would be a good resource. A library board of directors would eventually be formed. This will actually free up dollars from the Town. The new library budget would be voted on in connection with the Marcus Whitman School budget vote. In the event that this is not a possibility, we could be required to have a certified librarian running the library although Sabra feels the Town is small enough that that would not be a requirement. Sabra will contact Win Harper about the meeting.

Supervisor’s Report – Wayne Dunton

- The letter from Robert Ostrander was discussed earlier in tonight’s meeting.
- The water district quarterly report will be presented next month due to the error in the water billing discussed earlier in tonight’s meeting.
- Municipal Solutions will be contacted regarding the water district funding following the July 16th meeting with JP of MRB.
- Due to a computer glitch, the Monthly Report for tonight’s meeting could not be completed and printed.

Resolutions –

Resolution 28-20

Audit of Claims

On a motion by Councilman Gerbic, seconded by Councilwoman Adam, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Adam, Button, Gerbic
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	

Resolved that the bills contained in the July 2020 Abstract have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

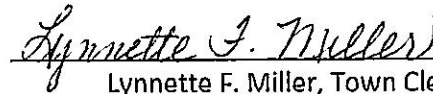
General Fund	Vouchers No: 1163-1179	\$ 7,117.31
Highway	Vouchers No: 2396-2413	\$33,694.72
Water District	Vouchers No: 3027-3032	\$ 2,424.68
Trust & Agency	Vouchers No: 14	\$ 4,291.90

Committee/Board Members Report –

- Councilman Button asked for an update on the swing set. Code Officer Kane added that the swing set has been put on hold due to the repairs to the Community House.

Middlesex Town Board
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2020-07-09

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Gerbic, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Lynnette F. Miller, Town Clerk