

**Town of Middlesex  
Regular Meeting  
March 10, 2022**

Present: David Adam, Supervisor  
Leon Button, Councilman  
Austin Liddiard, Councilman  
Paul Mitchell, Councilman

Also Present: Todd Conaway, Highway Superintendent  
Patrick Grimaldi, Assessor  
Dawn Kane, Code Enforcement Officer  
Dan Robeson, Historian/Heritage Group

Recording Secretary: Lynnette Miller, Clerk

**Call to Order & Pledge**

Supervisor Adam called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments**

Supervisor Adam opened the floor to comments from the public.

- Resident Tom Hansen requested an update on the South Lake Rd. project. Supervisor Adam responded and identified this as an item on the meeting agenda for later in tonight's meeting.
- Resident Peter Gerbic expressed concern about unsightly properties in the Town. He is requesting that the Town take action toward residents not following zoning laws.
- Public comments were closed at 7:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Supervisor Adam asked the Board for comments or corrections to the minutes from the February 10, 2022 regular meeting. There were none. On a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Liddiard the minutes were approved.

\*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

**Assessments – Pat Grimaldi**

- Exemptions have nearly all been submitted.
- The property assessment files are due to Yates County by April 7, 2022.
- A vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review will need to be filled. Assessor Grimaldi asked for assistance from the Board to find someone to fill the spot.

**Library – Beth Garlock**

- Beth is the new librarian for the Town. The library is open 20 hours/week; Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 3:00-8:00 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Approximately 60 books circulate through the library each month. Borrowing opportunities are available through the Southern Tier Library System. Beth hopes to offer programs that will bring more community residents to the library. Supervisor Adam mentioned the role of the newly formed Library

Board. He emphasized that suggestions are welcome. There was a discussion that included ideas such as a summer reading program, volunteers and a book sale.

#### **Highway/Buildings/Grounds – Todd Conaway**

- Highway Superintendent Conaway explained the 2022 Inter-Municipal Agreement with Yates County which will be voted on as a resolution later in tonight's meeting. Both entities help each other when needed. Todd gave the example that the County transported the Town's loader back from repair. The Town will reciprocate when the need arises.
- Art Rilands will come with the backhoe from the Village of Rushville to assist in the repair of rain gutters on the Town Hall. An exact date has not been determined.
- The 938 CAT is back in service. An invoice for work done has not been received. The front axle was removed and broken lines were replaced.
- The 2014 grader was taken to John Deere for repair. The estimate for repair is \$6,000-7,000.
- Resident Gordon Stringer asked the average age of Town equipment. Todd explained that the 10-wheeler trucks range from 2004 to 2013 with one new truck on order. The fire at the Town barn several years ago affected the rotation of replacing equipment. Prices have also increased substantially.
- Superintendent Conaway asked the Board about opening an account at Harbor Freight for purchase of tools. Supervisor Adam suggested that Todd use the Town credit card.
- The gear box is broken on the mowing tractor. A replacement was ordered for approximately \$2,000. There are over 3,000 hours on the mower.
- Superintendent Conaway explained the salt order and staying within the year's quota.
- Councilman Liddiard asked about the condition of the 1-ton truck. Todd responded that it's working well since being repaired.

#### **Code Enforcement – Dawn Kane**

- The new septic law is being initiated. Letters were sent to the first 50 residents on the lake, starting with the north end of East Lake Rd. who reside within 200 feet of the lake. A copy of the letter was given to the Board members. Dawn explained the process. A discussion ensued. The purpose of the law is to protect the lake water.
- Regarding the Vine Valley Beach, Dawn attended a meeting of the Yates County Recreation and Youth Bureau to discuss recruiting lifeguards. The cost for lifeguard certification is \$250-\$400. One possible incentive would be reimbursing the cost after completion of the course with dollars received from NYS. Dawn mentioned other incentives that were discussed at the meeting.
- ACS Docks will be hired to install the dock at the Vine Valley Beach by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Planning Board –**

- Code Officer Kane reported that there are several new homes being built in the Town. The Planning Board Co-Chair has been out of Town yet has joined the meeting via Zoom.

#### **Zoning Board –**

- Code Officer Kane reported that the ZBA has five (5) cases to be heard this month and four (4) next month.

**Water District – no report**

**Historian/Heritage Group – Dan Robeson**

- The Heritage Group continues to meet at the Town Hall on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
- There are two events scheduled to honor Town Resident Leigh Williams, who passed away in January. Leigh's son, Corey, is inviting friends/residents to Leigh's property on South Lake Rd. on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Parking and a shuttle will be provided at the Community House. The next day, August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Heritage Group will honor Leigh at the annual Citizens Appreciation Day. Information has been given to Town of Benton Supervisor Jack Prendergast and NYS Senator Tom O'Mara, who are preparing a citation to honor Leigh.

**Legislator's Report – Tim Cutler**

- The broadband project is moving along. Construction will begin in the late spring/early summer.
- The County is working to improve public safety communication for all emergency personnel. New towers will be built and equipment replaced. Contractors have been chosen.
- A committee has been formed to evaluate the Legislative representation by district as a result of census figures. Re-districting is complicated, so weighted voting for the Legislature seems the way to proceed. A final decision has not been reached.
- The 2023 Bicentennial Committee has been formulating ideas. The County historian will be reaching out to the towns for input. Historian Dan Robeson mentioned that Jim Hilton is the representative from Middlesex.

**Town Clerk – Lynnette Miller**

- Board members were given a copy of the Town Clerk's monthly report.
- The new desktop computer in the clerk's office is working well. The laptop used for taking minutes at meetings has died with a bad hard drive. No determination has been made regarding a replacement.
- Tax collection is winding down yet still trickling in. Second notices of taxes owed were mailed. Clerk Miller gave an explanation of tax reconciliation with the County which will take place the first week of April.

**Supervisor's Report – David Adam**

- South Lake Rd. – Supervisor Adam reported in the absence of Bruce St. Lawrence. There are 3-4 potential sites on the road that need drainage attention. David contacted Senator O'Mara's office to check on funding available. At this point, it does not appear hopeful. Lu Engineers, Bruce St. Lawrence and Supervisor Adam will meet in April to discuss further plans. Resident Tom Hansen asked about culverts. Highway Superintendent Conaway said one will be replaced by the Oregon cottage. Todd also added that there are at least 4-5 more culverts that need replacing.
- Resident Tom Hansen commented on the speed limit. Residents are getting anxious and noted that the speed limit is not being followed. Enforcing the speed limit will be difficult.
- Vine Valley Store – There was a meeting last week to discuss the field drainage issue. Code Officer Kane and Supervisor Adam were not available. Highway Superintendent Conaway and a County highway employee as well as Paul from Lu Engineers met to discuss drainage from the field east of the store. The Ash Family has hired Bill Grove to design a swale. The County is agreeable that the work will not interfere with the road. Supervisor Adam explained the

situation in detail, that humidity inside the store caused the floor to heave. Once the field is taken care of, the floor will be fixed. It appears that insurance will not cover the expense.

- MRB Water project – Nothing new to report. MRB is still working through the process.
- NYSEG/Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council – Supervisor Adam gave details of his discussion with NYSEG regarding changing the Town Hall lighting to LED. He also had a Zoom discussion with Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. A list of high impact action items was given to the Board. A discussion was held. No decisions were made. Supervisor Adam will invite the contact from Genesee/FL Regional Planning Council to attend the next meeting to give further explanation.
- Building/Vehicle Insurance Renewal – Insurance renewals were completed in March with adjustments recommended by Ron Papa of NFA that increased the Town coverage by \$150.
- Computer/Server Update – Board members were given a copy of a letter sent to Supervisor Adam from Councilman Mitchell who has been spearheading the upgrade of the computer system at the Town. New desktop computers were recently purchased and installed by SCT Computers for Supervisor Adam as well as for Assessor Patrick Grimaldi. Computers were purchased at the end of 2021 for the town clerk and bookkeeper. SCT Computers also provided the Town with a quote to upgrade the server and purchase a laptop for the code officer. Supervisor Adam expressed that he would like to meet with Clerk Miller, Code Officer Kane, Assessor Grimaldi and Bookkeeper Denise Adam before moving ahead.
- Community House – The Town Board has been invited to visit and meet with residents at the Vine Valley Community House on an evening to be determined. After a brief discussion, the date of July 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. was set. Supervisor Adam will look into the need to advertise this gathering.
- Committee Appointments – The following committee appointments were determined:
  - Councilman Leon Button – Highway & Assessments
  - Councilman Paul Mitchell – Planning / ZBA & Recreation
  - Councilman Austin Liddiard – Planning / ZBA & Highway
  - Supervisor Adam - Watershed

#### Public Comments –

- Resident Peter Gerbic commented that it would be nice to see a welcome sign on the triangle at Route 364. Peter is volunteering to look into this.
- Resident Gerbic would also like to look into the feasibility of solar for the cold storage shed. Supervisor Adam added and agreed that this would tie in with the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council's recommendations as discussed earlier.
- The public comments were closed at 8:43 p.m.

#### Resolutions

Resolution #13-22

#### 2022 Yates County Inter-Municipal Agreement

On a motion by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Button, the following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes    4      Adam, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell  
                     Nays    0

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Adam to sign and enter into the 2022 Yates County Inter-Municipal Agreement.

Resolution #14-22

**Audit of Claims**


On a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Liddiard, the following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes    4      Adam, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell  
                     Nays    0

RESOLVED that the bills contained in the March 2022 Abstract have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts.

General Fund	Vouchers # 26-46	\$ 10,909.67
Highway Fund	Vouchers # 19-40	\$ 55,890.83
Water District	Vouchers # 5-8	\$ 1,187.39
Library Fund	Vouchers # 3-5	\$ 2,459.61

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Liddiard, seconded by Councilman Mitchell, the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

  
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Lynnette F. Miller, Town Clerk