

**Town of Middlesex
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2023**

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

Absent: Stephanie Betts, Council Member
Josh Burnett, Highway Superintendent (entered at 8:00 p.m.)

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

Recording Secretary: Lynnette Miller, Clerk

Pledge/Call to Order

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

Public Comments - none

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Adam asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 8, 2023, regular meeting. There were none. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Button, seconded by Council Member Liddiard.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker – Rob Schwarting

Supervisor Adam introduced YC Board of Elections Commissioner Rob Schwarting. Commissioner Schwarting is here tonight to explain & clarify the need for full-time deputies in the BOE Office due to changes to voting regulations. He reviewed apportionment, the cost of running elections and how each town is charged. The commissioners are visiting each town in the County hoping to get support.

Assessor – Pat Grimaldi

- The assessor will provide Marcus Whitman CSD with their tax file by the first week of August.

Highway/Buildings/Grounds – Josh Burnett

- This month the highway crew replaced 5 driveway pipes and 1 cross culvert.
- Work was done on View Board Road, including gravel.
- There has been an issue with the sensor on the grader. The estimate for repairs is approximately \$4,000 by Five Star.
- The reprofiling on Gray Rd. and Loomis Rd. started on Monday. The reprofiler broke down midway through the job. The job will be finished this Monday.

- We are currently using Gorham's roller. Our roller is showing low oil pressure after 15-20 minutes of use. Tracey Equipment will be diagnosing.
- Mowing roadsides & ditching on West Avenue is being done.
- There was a water main break on Water Street this week.
- Through the Yates County Workforce Development Program, a local student will be working in the highway department up to 20 hours per week for 6 weeks. This is at no cost to the Town. Superintendent Burnett will have him using the weeder, painting fire hydrants, cleaning the shop and doing some trimming at the water tower.
- Gray Road and Loomis Road are getting prepared for oil and stone.
- Shoulder cutting on Hadsell and Mertz Roads need to be done.
- Superintendent Burnett will not be here for Clean Up Day on Saturday, August 12. He will take care of organizing help for the day. The hours will be 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Electronics will be taken. Details will be posted on the Town website.
- The new 10-wheeler has been in the shop. Regional International has a rep coming from Cummings to look at it.
- Supervisor Adam asked if nobody applies for open position, would it be feasible that the Town hires a younger person, someone who is inexperienced with no CDL. Perhaps the Town could help pay for some of the training. BOCES students? Superintendent Burnett asked about giving up State roads for plowing and only doing County roads. He asked if the ad will get placed again. He commented that it would be good to have the next person hired involved with the water district. Discussion, no decisions.
- Council Member Mitchell asked if Superintendent Burnett is he is aware of the bon fire on Bare Hill the Saturday before Labor Day. The town highway employees do the preparation work for the fire.
- New fencing and tables were delivered to the Vine Valley Beach. Dawn suggested that the fence be installed after Labor Day.

Code Enforcement Office – Dawn Kane

- Cell Tower – Reimbursement checks have been received from the cell tower company. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week.
- The Planning Board met this month with a couple of difficult situations, both involving stop work orders on South Lake Rd. Attorney Rob Brenner was called to advise on both. Both situations are progressing. Council Member Mitchell asked if the stop work orders have been lifted. Dawn responded no, that the architectural plans have changed for one house. The stop work order has been lifted temporarily with limits. The other property, the contractor has left the job and the walls have failed. The walls will need to be taken down. The homeowner is working to get this turned around.
- A "Property Under Review" sign was shown to the Board. Supervisor Adam asked when the sign goes up. Code Officer Kane explained that sign will be given to the homeowner or their agent. It will be their responsibility to place the sign when they are on the Planning Board schedule. This is a good way for the Planning Board members to find the home.
- Library – Nothing to report since there hasn't been a board meeting.
- The Vine Valley Beach is closed until further notice, as of this morning. E-coli numbers have been high due to heavy rain. Superintendent Burnett ran a hazard tape and placed cones. The lifeguards are there to inform people. The beach can used. No one can go in the water. Swim lessons started with Yates County but will be cancelled until further notice.

Town Clerk – Lynnette Miller

- The Board received a copy of the town clerk's monthly report for June.
- Clerk Miller also gave the Board members a copy of the proposition written by Attorney Jeff Graff as it will appear on the November ballot, making the position of highway superintendent appointed, instead of elected. A copy has also been sent to the YC Board of Elections. Clerk Miller explained the process of establishing this as a local law, if the proposition passes.
- Clerk Miller met with a salesman about a new Toshiba copier. Replacing the current model with an equivalent model would cost approximately \$1,000 less than was paid for the current copier over 15 years ago. Clerk Miller recommends the black and white model, as we have now. Cost to be \$3,562.00. A discussion was held regarding the necessity of purchasing a new copier sooner rather than later since parts are no longer available for the current copier. All were in agreement that Clerk Miller, Supervisor Adam and Bookkeeper Denise Adam will move forward with ordering a new copier. Yates County has a contract with Toshiba, so no additional estimate is needed. *See resolution below.
- Clerk Miller raised the topic of a Town newsletter which would typically be going out soon. There was a brief discussion about the lack of new information to go into a newsletter. Clean Up Day seems to be the most asked about item. Information regarding the August 12th Clean Up Day will be placed on the Town website.
- Clerk Miller informed the Board that she ordered a case (2,000) of pre-stamped envelopes before the increase in the price of stamps. The order was direct through the USPS and placed on the Town credit card in the amount of \$1,519.40.
- Clerk Miller expressed the need for air conditioning at the Town Hall. There was a brief discussion. Supervisor Adam suggested this would be a good topic for the Board to discuss at a budget work meeting.

Water District – no report

- Supervisor Adam reported that he instructed Alan Williams to let MRB know that the Town wants to go back to the beginning of the Town's line with the proposed new water line.

Historian/Heritage Group – Dan Robeson

- Citizens Appreciation Day will be held on August 6, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Fire Hall. This year's honorees will be Ellen Robeson, Veldon Dunton, and Peter Gerbic. Janet Reed will be honored posthumously. This annual event is sponsored by the Town of Middlesex, the Middlesex Hose Company and the Heritage Group.
- Seneca Heritage Day will be held Saturday, September 2, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Overackers School House. The program will include Peter Jemison, Bill Crouse and the Allegany River Dancers. Highway Superintendent Burnett will take care of the area on Bare Hill with mowing and preparation for the bon fire which signals the start of the Lighting of the Lake tradition.

Bicentennial – Paul Mitchell

- The committee is looking for some specific jobs to be done that day; garbage pick-up, traffic control, to name a couple.
- The program is in place – tents, port-a-potty, food, entertainment, etc. Parade participants are still welcome. Supervisor Adam suggested going to Wegmans during a Thursday night car show with flyers asking for participants.

Legislator's Report – Tim Cutler

- The Legislature has appointed Republican Deputy Commissioner Sheila Burt to take over following the retirement of Republican Commissioner Rob Schwarting in the Board of Elections Office.
- The Legislature passed a resolution to honor the birthday of the US Coast Guard on August 4, 2023.
- The Legislature passed a resolution in honor of Purple Heart Day to be held on August 7, 2023.
- The Legislature will consider a local law to increase the income limits for senior citizens for tax purposes. A public hearing will be set. Once the law is filed with NYS, Assessor Grimaldi will report back to the Town.
- The County is preparing for an 8-year review of the ag district. Letters have been mailed to residents in the ag district.
- The 2nd draft of the Farmland Protection Plan update is done. Legislator Cutler will leave a copy with Supervisor Adam. When finalized, every town will have a copy and the summary report will be made available to the public.
- The County highway/emergency services building is progressing. There is a current issue of unsuitable soils for building causing some delay. Project engineers are re-evaluating the situation.
- The Public Safety Communications Project has been up and running. Feedback has been positive. The Legislature is making sure specifications are being met.
- Supervisor Adam asked about the utility building to be placed in the Town of Middlesex as part of the Broadband Project. Legislator Cutler will check on the timeframe.
- The new Yates County Ambulance service started on June 11th as reported at the last meeting.

Supervisor's Report –

- Special Projects – 9 people paid for the bid specs for the South Lake Road Drainage Project. There was one bid for \$427,782, which was approximately 25% higher than expected. Lu Engineers has taken the bid package to check it over. A decision has not been made. In order to have the project move forward, there needs to be a special meeting. It was determined that the Board would meet on Thursday, 7/20 at 6:00 p.m. Notice of Special Meeting will be sent to the newspaper as well as posted. *See resolution below.
- Clean Up Day was set for Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Town Barns. Information will be posted on the Town website as well as posted.
- Solar Farm Moratorium – Council Member Mitchell reported that the Board can limit the kilowatts or limit by tiers. Tier 1 is for home use (rooftops). For the moratorium the Town can stop all projects or set limits according to kilowatts or tiers. Gorham has moved beyond the moratorium and made it a local law. Council Member Liddiard suggested using the NYSERDA 10,000 kilowatt maximum for 6 months, renewable. Reasons for adoption are to standardize regulations. Supervisor Adam will contact Attorney Jeff Graff.
- Council Member Betts has produced a postcard to be sent out with details regarding the highway superintendent referendum as well as Clean Up Day. Paul spoke with the Board of Elections about getting a mailing list. Code Officer Kane mentioned an auto mailer. Council Member Mitchell will touch base with Council Member Betts, thinking this is what she has in mind. An estimate will be presented at the August Board meeting.
- The Town has received a letter from Selective Insurance regarding supplemental insurance. There is no additional cost.

- Supervisor Adam and Bruce St. Lawrence continue to fight for the FEMA dollars as discussed at last month's meeting. There has been a thread of emails between Assemblyman Palmesano and Scott Pryor of Lu Engineers. There is no new news, however, the Town continues to push for the money as awarded.
- Vine Valley Beach Lifeguard – Supervisor Adam requested a motion to hire Gabe Johnson as a lifeguard at the rate of \$15.19/hr. A motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Liddiard.
*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Public Comments –none

Resolutions

Resolution #43-23

Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Adam, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Betts

RESOLVED to set July 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time for a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex to award the bid package for drainage work to be done on South Lake Road. A public notice of the meeting to be published and posted by the town clerk.

Resolution #44-23

Audit of Claims

On a motion by Council Member Liddiard, seconded by Council Member button, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Adam, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Betts

RESOLVED that the invoices contained in the July 2023 Abstract have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	Vouchers No. 144-168	\$17,135.49
Highway Fund	Vouchers No. 115-134	\$46,613.45
Water District	Vouchers No. 19-21	\$22,630.71
Trust & Agency	Vouchers No. 13-14	\$ 432.58

Resolution #45-23

Toshiba Black & White Copier Purchase – Model e-STUDIO2528A

On a motion by Council Member Liddiard, seconded by Council Member Mitchell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Adam, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Betts

RESOLVED for the purchase of a new black and white copier for the Middlesex Town Hall, Toshiba Model e-STUDIO2528A.

Executive Session

At 8:53 p.m. Supervisor Adam requested that the Board enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. A motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Button.

Meeting Reconvened

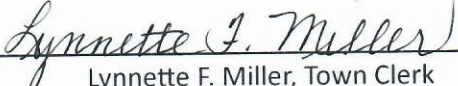
On a motion by Council Member Button, seconded by Council Member Liddiard, the regular meeting of the Middlesex Town Board reconvened at 9:01 p.m.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourn

With no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Button, seconded by Council Member Mitchell to adjourn the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex at 9:02 p.m.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.



Lynnette F. Miller, Town Clerk