

**Town of Middlesex
Regular Meeting
October 12, 2023**

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

Also Present: Josh Burnett, Highway Supervisor
Patrick Grimaldi, Assessor
Dawn Kane, Code Enforcement Officer
Dan Robeson, Historian/Heritage Group
Margaret Randolph, Justice

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

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 14, 2023, regular meeting. A motion to approved the minutes was made by Council Member Liddiard, seconded by Council Member Mitchell.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Liddiard to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting – 2024 Budget Workshop held on September 28, 2023.

*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Legislator's Report -Doug Paddock

Supervisor Adam explained that the Legislator's Report has been moved up in the agenda for tonight's meeting.

- Broadband Project update – Middlesex portion expected to be connected during the second quarter of 2024.
- The Public Safety Communications Project is in clean-up phase and working well.
- Construction at the new location to house YC Highway, Office of Emergency Services as well as Public Health continues. The new salt barn is complete and filled.
- The County 2024 Budget Workshop will be held October 30th at 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers. Sharing funds with municipalities will be discussed.
- The adopted NYS budget for 2024 has resulted in an increase in Medicaid rates.
- The County passed a local law to renew mortgage tax at an additional ¼ percent.

- Legislator Paddock offered condolences to the Town of Middlesex regarding the death of former Supervisor and long-time Middlesex resident Robert Multer. Supervisor Adam added comments in appreciation of Bob's service and dedication to Yates County and the Town of Middlesex.

7:06 p.m. Council Member Stephanie Betts entered the meeting.

- The Legislature recognized the following; October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a reception was held for County election workers, WWII U.S. Navy Veteran John Mattison's 100th birthday on October 21, 2023.
- The Legislature proclaimed the following: U.S. Navy Birthday on October 13, 2023; U.S. Marine Corps Birthday on November 10, 2023; Veterans Day on November 11, 2023.
- A resolution was approved to hold a public hearing on a Local Law to Provide Defense and Indemnification of the Office of Sheriff of Yates County.
- There will be a dedication to the canine members of the Yates County Sheriff Office on October 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
- The Legislature approved Snow and Ice Contracts with municipalities.
- The Legislature approved the Contract with the Office of Public Safety.
- The Legislature authorized design of the Pre-Emption Road bridge surface replacement.
- Household Hazardous Day held at the County Fairgrounds in September was successful.

Assessor – Pat Grimaldi

- Assessor Grimaldi reported that he attended required training last week.
- Pat reported on the NYS DEC 480a exemption and a concern about logging in the steep slope area.
- Assessor Grimaldi recommends that the Town follow suit with Yates County to adopt a local law to increase the income limits for The Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens. A motion to proceed was carried at the September meeting. Town Attorney Jeff Graff has drafted the proposed law, which the Board was given for review in order to set the date for a public hearing.

7:36 p.m. Council Member Leon Button entered the meeting.

Highway/Buildings/Grounds – Josh Burnett

- Superintendent Burnett reported on grader work and paving on several roads. Yates County will use a shoulder machine to work on Mertz, Loomis & Gray Roads. Additional work has been done ditching and replacing driveway pipes. Roadside mowing continues.
- Trucks 3, 5, 6 & the mowing tractor are all due for service which will be done on rainy days.
- Regarding the roller, 2 quotes have been received for a new engine. Still waiting for quotes on repair.
- The 2007 Sterling Truck 8 was advertised in the online auction. Bidding ended today with an offer of \$15,100. Josh has 48 hours to counter the offer, accept or decline. Supervisor Adam asked for comments from the Board. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to continue with this offer and to surplus the truck. Josh will speak with Bob from the online auction about making a counter offer. Motion to follow.
- There are a couple pieces needed for the new fence at the Vine Valley beach. Council Member Betts will check with the supplier and have him contact Highway Superintendent Burnett.

Code Enforcement Office – Dawn Kane

- Planning Board has 5 new home applications to be reviewed.
- ZBA also busy – there is a special use permit for Dekouski that is moving forward.
- The solar project was approved for Rochester Folk Art Guild and is moving forward.
- Kevin Olvany is assisting Code Officer Kane with some drainage concerns on private property on South Lake Road.
- The Vine Valley Beach grant money was received. Paperwork has been submitted. Dawn explained the process.

Town Clerk – Lynnette Miller

- The Board received a copy of the town clerk's Monthly Report.
- The Town received a letter from Hospice House in Naples requesting for the Town to include a \$5,000 donation to them in the 2024 budget. Supervisor Adam added that he had also received a phone call from someone on their Board of Directors. Clerk Miller explained that municipalities are not allowed to donate taxpayer dollars to a non-profit agency.

Water District

- Supervisor Adam reported that he met with Water Superintendent Williams and Highway Superintendent Burnett. Josh Burnett will work under the supervision of Alan Williams for one year in order for Josh to become certified to handle the water duties in addition to the highway duties as Alan prepares to retire.

Historian/Heritage Group – Dan Robeson

- The 40th Anniversary of the Middlesex Heritage Group will be celebrated on October 18th with cake.
- The Ontario/Yates Small Historical Societies is hosting a presentation by storyteller and educator Perry Ground on October 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Fire Hall. The presentation, "Re-Thinking Thanksgiving: Native American Views on an American Holiday," is free to the public.
- The Middlesex Heritage Group and the Vine Valley Community House have joined together to offer a \$2,000 scholarship to send a Middlesex resident to Finger Lakes Community College. Paul Mitchell and Lois Meyer are spearheading.
- In honor of National Wreaths Across America Day, a ceremony will take place on December 16th to honor local Veterans by sponsoring a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave. The cost per wreath is \$17.00. Scan the QR code from the event notice posted at the Town Hall or make a donation online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NY0458.

Bicentennial Celebration – no report

Supervisor's Report – David Adam

- Supervisor Adam explained the drainage cross-cutting being done on South Lake Rd. The work is on schedule.
- Lu Engineers has submitted the Phase 3 Paving Agreement for South Lake Road.
- The proposed local law regarding a solar moratorium in the Town of Middlesex was reviewed favorably by the Yates County Planning Board, as well as by the Town of Middlesex Planning Board.

- The Vine Valley Store Lease is up for renewal January 1, 2024. Tanya Fox is interested in renewing.
- Dan Paddock has purchased an 8' X 10' enclosed trailer to house the Memorial Day Parade sound equipment. He has presented a written request for \$500 from the Town of Middlesex. Additional towns and fire departments in the Marcus Whitman CSD were also contacted. The trailer will be housed at the Gorham Fire Department. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Button to support the \$500 request.
*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.
- 2024 Budget Update – Supervisor Adam gave an explanation of the fund balance. There was discussion regarding borrowing from savings, bonding, waiting to pave, CHIPS dollars. Supervisor Adam will look into the process of bonding for the next meeting.
- There was a motion made by Council Member Betts, seconded by Council Member Liddiard to place the 2007 Sterling Truck #8 into surplus.
*All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Public Comments – none. The time for public comments is closed.

Resolutions

Resolution #55-23

Authorize Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for 2024

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to approve a Public Hearing regarding a Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for the 2024 Town Budget to be held on Monday, October 30, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1216 Route 245, Middlesex.

Resolution #56-23

Authorize a Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Local Law to Increase the Income Limits of the Tax Exemption for Persons 65 Years of Age and Over

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize a Public Hearing regarding a Local Law "To Increase the Income Limits of the Tax Exemption for Persons 65 Years of Age and Over" to be held November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex, New York.

Resolution #57-23

Establish a Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to establish a Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund for the Town of Middlesex for the purpose of heavy equipment purchases.

Resolution #58-23

Authorize a Public Hearing on a Proposed Local Law “Establishing a Moratorium on Solar Collection Systems and Solar Farms”

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize a Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law entitled “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Solar Collection Systems and Solar Farms” to be held November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex, New York.

Resolution #59-23

Authorize 2023-24 Yates County Snow and Ice Agreement

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Adam to sign the Yates County Snow and Ice Agreement for 2023-24.

Resolution #60-23

Adopt 2024 Tentative Budget

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex adopt the 2024 Tentative budget, and set the date of the Public Hearing for November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex, New York.

Resolution #61-23

Authorize a Public Hearing on the 2024 Preliminary Budget

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize a Public Hearing to review the 2024 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Middlesex to be held November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall, 1216 State Route 245, Middlesex, New York

Resolution #62-23

Appoint Lyons National Bank as an Official Depository for the Town of Middlesex

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to appoint Lyons National Bank as an official depository for the Town of Middlesex.

Resolution #63-23

Authorization for Town Court Application for Funding from the Justice Court Assistance Program

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Court of the Town of Middlesex to apply for funding from the Justice Court Assistance Program in the amount of \$5,753.03.

Resolution #64-23

Authorize the Professional Services Proposal Submitted by Lu Engineers for Phase 3 Improvements to South Lake Road

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Adam to sign the Professional Services Proposal submitted by Lu Engineers for Phase 3 Improvements to South Lake Road.

Resolution #65-23

Audit of Claims

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Adam, Betts, Button, Liddiard, Mitchell
 Nays 0
 Absent 0

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

General Fund	Vouchers No. 227-249	\$ 10,547.18
Highway Fund	Vouchers No. 170-183	\$ 27,517.73
Water District	Vouchers No. 29-32	\$ 23,233.71
Trust & Agency	Vouchers No. 15	\$ 550.80

Adjourn

With no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Liddiard to adjourn the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex at 8:56 p.m.


Lynnette F. Miller, Town Clerk