

Town of Middlesex

Regular Meeting

February, 13 2025

Present: David Adam, Supervisor
Leon Button, Council Member (arrived @ 7:50 PM)
Austin Liddiard, Council Member
Paul Mitchell, Council Member

Also Present: Patrick Grimaldi , Tax Assessor
Doug Paddock, Yates County Legislature
Dawn Kane, Code Enforcement Officer
Josh Burnett, Highway Superintendent
Amberle Kelly, Historian
Ron Keller – townsmen

Absent: Stephanie Betts, Council Member
Rebecca Moore, Town Clerk

Recording: Austin Liddiard, Council Member

Call to Order/Pledge

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

Open Public Comments 7:02 PM

Hearing none

Close public comments 7:02 PM

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING *Establishing a Second Moratorium on Solar Collection Systems and Solar Farms*

Request to approve December 12, 2024 AND January 09, 2025 board meeting minutes was approved by Council Member Mitchell and Council Member Liddiard seconded approval, all in favor

Town Clerk Report (read by Supervisor Adam in Rebecca Moore absence)

Website

- Town Board meeting agenda drafted and uploaded to website

Revenue 01/01 – 02/13

- Dog renewal notices were mailed
- 1 Marriage certificate
- 1 certified copy of marriage certificate from 1970

County Infrastructure Grant Program presenting to the board to determine if it applies for the Town of Middlesex or not. Deadline is 2/27/2025 (email received in Town Clerk mailbox 02/7/2025).

Solar Moratorium timeline

Local Law establishing a second moratorium on solar farms

STEPS:

- Send local law to County Planning Board for its review and recommendation
 - Town Clerk sent an email on 12/3 to Andrew, County Planning Board with Supervisor Adam cc'd
 - **UPDATE** – Yates County Planning board met 01/23 and decision provided
- Send local Law to the Town Planning Board **and** Zoning Board of Appeals
 - Town Clerk sent an email on 12/3 to Dawn for Town Planning Board members list for their notification and has the current list for the BAR
 - **UPDATE** – received planning board emails from Dawn 2/5
- Town Board needs to pass the Resolution authorizing scheduling of Public hearing
 - **UPDATE**- Resolution passed for Public hearing during 12/12/2024 Town Board meeting
- After resolution passes, Town Clerk posts the Notice of Public hearing on the Town signboard and publishes in the Town's official newspaper
 - **UPDATE**- Notice of Public hearing posted in Town Hall 02/5 and Newspaper article ran 02/7
- Town Clerk distributes draft of the proposed Local Law to Town Board members at least 7 days (including Sundays before final adoption personally)
 - **UPDATE** – I didn't realize this needed to go to the entire board 7 days prior and only Supervisor Dave Adam has had this alongside Town Clerk from Attorney Graff since 12/2. Town Clerk printed and put in mailboxes 02/11

- After Town Board holds public hearing, and after recommendations are received from the County Planning Board, the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, local law can be adopted by passing a Resolution Authorizing Adoption
- Once Local Law is adopted, Town Clerk returns one original certified copy of the resolution authorizing adoption so Jeff Graff can file the Law with the Secretary of State

Tax Season 2025 UPDATE

Statement of Taxes from Yates County for the Town of Middlesex are as follows:

TO SUPERVISOR:

Town General	\$465,404.45	Paid Check 1002 on 01/23/2025
Highway-Townwide	\$1,197,300.00	Paid Check 1009 on 01/31/2025
Special District Tax Ambulance	\$213,719.00	Paid Check 1003 on 01/23/2025
Special District Tax Fire	\$268,658.18	Paid Check 1004 on 01/23/2025
Special District Tax Light	\$4,000.00	Paid Check 1005 on 01/23/2025
Special District Tax Water	\$75,900.00	Paid Check 1006 on 01/23/2025
Relevy Water	\$22,462.19	Paid Check 1007 on 01/23/2025
Omitted Tax	\$1,969.52	Paid Check 1008 on 01/23/2025

TOTAL Payout to Supervisor \$2,249,413.37

NOTE from Clerk: ALL monies owed to the Town of Middlesex supervisor per the statement of taxes from Yates County have been satisfied and there are \$0.00 owed from the Town Clerk of Middlesex.

TO COUNTY TREASURER:

County Tax, Less Credits	\$1,235,942.42
Surplus Tax Credit (prior year)	\$1,231.49
Omitted Tax Credit (prior year)	\$1,577.61
Worker's Compensation	\$23,083.52
Election Expenses	\$45,424.18
Surplus Tax (previous year)	\$.42
Returned School Tax	\$143,329.36

TOTAL Payout to County Treasurer \$1,448,126.02

NOTE from Clerk: Per Marsha Devine, Yates County Treasurer, the county has received on behalf of the Town of Middlesex: \$ 235,828.82 thus far. We will receive a grand total for the month of February in March and a grand total of March first week in April. With the grand total received on our behalf in April, the county will also include the TOTAL amount owed to Yates County, less the amount they received directly. Since 01/31/2025, ALL taxes received in office by Town Clerk, will be HOLDING in the tax collector account at LNB until FINAL BILL is received in April. The current balance in Tax Collector LNB account is \$ 550,339.48. I will continue to update the total amount in holding until FINAL payout amount is received in April for Yates County.

Highway/Buildings/Grounds- Josh Burnett

- Hauling CRI for stock pile
- Went out 23 days so far for snow/ice (already been out double than last year)
- Finished snow fence
- Next few weeks haul stone for stock pile, ditching when we can
- New 10 wheeler to replace 2004 sterling (10K discount on truck when it comes in) Spring of 2026
- Salt shortage (check back from American rock salt for approximately \$17,500)
- Clean up day 4/26 @ 8 -5

Water District Superintendent – Allen Williams

Rushville wants to partner on a new water instrument for finding leaks – cost is \$1500.00

Code Enforcement Officer- Dawn Kane

Code

- Very busy
- Next 5 year septic inspections – next round of letters
- Beach and lifeguard funding in the works
- Most systems are compliant – 6 new along lake

Supervisor Adam brought up the Solar Moratorium – should be approved no later than 6 months

Planning

- 6 new applicants
- Large home on East Lake Road is back

ZBA –

Busy

Historian - Amberle Kelly

We held the MHG Annual Meeting on January 5th;

- a. Re-election and election of the Board of Trustees
- b. Recapped 2024 events and activities
- c. Discussed how to engage with local community members
- d. Solidified event/activity ideas for 2025

Photo Mural Dedication Ceremony: April 5th @ MDX Valley

- a. Hoping to move forward with April 5th; had issues obtaining our Certificate of Insurance so have not been able to proceed with securing that date; will hopefully have it secured by next week

Other Events This Year:

- a. 150th Anniversary of Overacker's School House: late June-July i. Historical Scavenger Hunt w/ fun info ii. Possibly someone to dress up as a teacher from that time to "teach a class"/historical impersonators iii. Carnival-type games with prizes iv. Vendors v. Food truck? vi. Small Petting zoo?
- b. Citizen Appreciation Day: August 3rd, 2-4pm i. Dan Robeson will be our only honoree
- c. Seneca Heritage Day: August 30th
- d. Cemetery Clean Days: October-ish/"Spooky" season

Digitize NY Project

- a. I have spent approx 10-13 man-hours already; have ~100 items to be scanned at this time
- b. MHG approved the use of 2 min wage-paid people to assist me in going through our records

Small Museums Association: Either April 27 or May 4 @2pm a. Presentation on Black Americans in the Revolutionary War

Yates county legislature – Doug Paddock

- County Infrastructure Grant Program administered by Empire State Development (ESD) –
 - Yates County can submit one application to ESD
 - All municipalities have been sent information
 - YC will accept applications until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28th, but strongly suggest getting application in by Thursday, February 27th
 - Applications will be screened and one selected by legislators
 - YC will pay a consultant to create the submission to ESD
- Broadband –
 - Phase 1A (trunk route) – 100% complete; closeout documents submitted.

- Phase 1B (distribution in Italy/Middlesex) – >55% complete; anticipating completion end of February, depending on weather.
- Phase 2 (distribution in Italy, Jerusalem and Benton) – awarded construction contract to Henkles & McCoy, the same contractor as for Phase 1B.
- Anticipate installation starting 1Q25.
- Project total estimate is \$17.16 million with the County's portion being \$3.63 million.
- Applied for a ReConnect 5 grant (25% match) for ~153 miles of fiber; denied.
- Also applied for a ConnectAll (NY) grant (no match) for same addresses. Full grant denied but NYS agreed to help with ReConnect 5 match. With ReConnect denial, ConnectAll has discussed a fully funded reduced program. Stay tuned.
- Work is mostly complete on the new Highway/Office of Emergency Services/Public Health building in Benton.
 - Cleaning up punch list items.
 - Open house will occur in the spring.
- Consideration of changing public transit provider from Yates Transit Service (YTS) to Regional Transit Service (RTS) based in Rochester. A special committee is reviewing.
- The first Spring Sisters' Day breast cancer screening event will be in Branchport on March 18th. Yates County Public Health website will have details.
- Resolutions of significance adopted at 02/10/25 meeting –
 - Contract amendment with a contractor for changes at the new facility.
 - Appointed members to Fire and EMS Advisory Boards.
 - Accepted a Volunteer Fire Infrastructure and Response Equipment (V-FIRE) grant for \$839,340.
 - Accepted NYSDOT grants for three projects at the county airport.
 - Awarded bids for abrasive sand, cold mix patch, gravel and crushed stone. Towns can piggy-back.
 - Authorized contracts with Employee Assistant Programs for public safety and CSEA/Non-union personnel.
 - Awarded Natural and Recreational grants from occupancy tax to six entities; total amount \$84,000.
- Other items:
 - Yates County will be hosting the InterCounty Association meeting on June 20 at Seasons on Keuka Lake.
 - Veterans' Services Office continues to seek volunteer drivers to take veterans to medical appointments. A volunteer that drove a large number of trips recently passed, leaving a big void.
 - Veterans' Service Office wishes to make contact with all veterans in the county. As part of that endeavor, a representative from the office would welcome the opportunity to appear at a future town board meeting. If that is something you would like, I will ask the director to contact David to schedule. **Note: After discussion at the meeting, it was suggested that the director maintain contact with Win Harper rather than attend a town board meeting.**
 - The current incumbent legislators intend to run for reelection.

Tax Assessor- Patrick Grimaldi

- Exemptions due by 2/28/2025
- Re-value notices going out
- Farmland prices per acre has risen \$6,000.00 per acre since August, 2024

David Adam, Supervisor

Yates County Planning Board Decision for Solar Moratorium

- 6 month recommendation from Yates County

Tax cap override for March

- For 2026, Jeff Graff has sent the paperwork

Budget training

- Plans to continue training – through Comptroller office
- Permission to join a training in Saratoga
- Also an option for a in house workshop

LGRMIF Grant (scanning) UPDATE

- 8 boxes of info to start the process – most documents need to be sorted.
 - Dawn will look into additional documents she may have

AED training

- Partnering with Potter for training and 6 people will be attending March 10th @ \$25.00 per person

Open for public comments 7:55 PM

Hearing none

Close public comments 7:55 PM

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING *Establishing a Second Moratorium on Solar Collection Systems and Solar Farms*

- Councilman Button asked about the progress and Supervisor Adam re-read Town Clerk report Solar Moratorium update.

Motions:

Motion for AED training with Potter adopted by Council Member Button – seconded by Council Member Mitchell, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Motion for April 26th clean up Day with NO ELECTRONICS and per tire cost of \$5.00 adopted by Council Member Liddiard – seconded by Council Member Button, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Motion to proceed to order automatic transmission truck for \$325,388.88 and chassis adopted by Council Member Liddiard – seconded by Council Member Mitchell, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Motion to partner on water equipment with Rushville with the cost of \$1,500.00 adopted by Council Member Button – seconded by Council Member Mitchell, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Motion appoint Amberlee Kelly as town cleaner adopted by Council Member Mitchell – seconded by Council Member Button, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution # 8- 25

Resolution AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2025 ENTITLED

**“A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A SECOND MORATORIUM
ON SOLAR COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND SOLAR FARMS”**

On a resolution by Council Member Mitchell – seconded by Council Member Button, the following resolution was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Resolution # 9-25

Resolution to pay audit of claims for January 10th – 31st

On a resolution by Council Member Mitchell – seconded by Council Member Liddiard, the following resolution was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Resolution # 10-25

Resolution to pay audit of claims for February 2025

On a resolution by Council Member Button – seconded by Council Member Liddiard, the following resolution was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Executive session called into order by Council Member Mitchell– seconded by Council Member Liddiard @ 8:25 PM - any others except Board members left the room: David Adam, Paul Mitchell, Austin Liddiard and Leon Button

Council Member Liddiard makes motion to exit executive session and Council Member Mitchell seconded @ 8:50 PM

Executive session Resolution # 11-25

Motion to request from the employees of the Town of Middlesex, effective board meeting on 4/10/2025, to provide the Town Board a written monthly report in the approved Town Board format via email to Town Clerk at noon on Wednesday, the week prior each monthly board meeting date.

On a motion by Council Member Button – seconded by Council Member Mitchell, the following motion was adopted:

ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Adam, Liddiard, Button, Mitchell

Nays 0

Executive session exited called by Council Member Button – seconded by Council Member Mitchell with all in favor @ 8:50 PM

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Council Member Mitchell – seconded by Council Member Button, with all in favor to adjourn the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Middlesex at 8:50 PM.