

Town of Middlefield

February 14, 2023

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A public hearing for the purpose of hearing comment on the repeal of the current Grievance Day was opened at 7:00pm by Town Supervisor Dave Karl. With no **comment made, the hearing was closed with a Motion by Leon, second Pindar. Ayes-5 Nays-0.** Motion carried. A public hearing was opened by Supervisor Karl at 7:02 pm regarding the new Grievance Day as the 2nd Wednesday after the 4th Tuesday in May. With no comments made, the hearing was closed with a Motion by Branigan, second Woepfel. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried. The hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law was opened at 7:03 pm by Supervisor Dave Karl. Paula DiPerna would like the board not to pass the Solar Law at this time. She feels it would be premature. Supervisor Karl stated her concerns raised have been discussed. Robert Seward also had concerns with the passage of the Solar law at this time. Council member Leon clarified some of the issues raised. The public hearing was closed with a motion by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Middlefield Town Board was opened by Supervisor Dave Karl at 7:40 pm. The minutes of the last town board meeting held January 10, 2023 have been available for review. With no changes made the minutes were approved with a Motion by Woepfel, second by Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Present: Supervisor Dave Karl, Council members Jeff Woepfel, Peg Leon, Kelly Branigan, and Jen Pindar. Town Attorney David Clinton, Highway Superintendent Brendan Kraham, Zoning/IT Neal Newman. Paula DiPerna, Robert Seward, Elmer Luke, Owen Weikert, Johnnie Nemec-Planning Board member. Casper Ewig of the Freeman's Journal.

Highway Superintendent's Report- Brendan received a letter from engineer Michael O'Reilly regarding the Ottaway Road Project. The survey work is back from their surveyor. Brendan would like to appoint Joe Kukenberger as Shop Foreman. The bookkeeper will be notified. The fire on the lake on a private road, and the response by the Deputy Highway Superintendent when asked to have the Town spread salt for emergency vehicles, was discussed. Brendan would like to get estimates for a plow truck for 2025.

Financial Report- The financial report was emailed by the bookkeeper.

Planning Board Report- Johnnie Nemec gave a report to the Board.

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Zoning Board/IT Officer Report- Neal Newman gave his report to the board. The Wahl to Wahl Junk Yard yearly permit was submitted. A Motion to approve the submitted permit was made by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Attorney's Report- Local Law #1 of 2023. To **repeal** Local Law #1 of 2012, which set the Real Property Tax Grievance Day for the Board of Assessment Review to be held the first Friday after the fourth Tuesday of May. Motion to approve by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Local Law #2 of 2023. Grievance Day for the Board of Assessment Review to be held on the second Wednesday following the fourth Tuesday of May. A Motion to approve was made by Leon, second Pindar. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Local #3 of 2023. Solar Energy Systems Law. A Motion to approve was made by Leon, second Pindar. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Committee Reports- Kevin Morse came in to the town hall to discuss insurance coverage with the highway workers. ARPA funding updates were discussed by Council member Pindar. A Motion to approve \$10,000 to school-based health for Cherry Valley Schools administered by the Friends of Bassett was made by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

Old Business- The Slater subdivision. The Conservation Easement was not on the previously map signed, the Supervisor resigned the corrected map for filing at the County by Mrs. Slater.

New Business- Volunteer Firefighters property tax exemptions to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters was discussed. Town Attorney Dave Clinton will start drafting a local law.

Temporary Special Permits- Sydney Waller. Feb. 25 11-2 Open House for Lavern Kelley's carved trucks. A Motion to approve was made by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried. Sydney Waller. March 10 2-6 pm. Opening reception Ellen St. John. Peace Award benefit with Nancy Waller art. A Motion to approve was made by Leon, second Branigan. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

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Bills

Highway Bills. Abstract 2. Vouchers 3-22 in the amount of \$33,100.02. A Motion to approve payment was made by Branigan, second Leon. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

General Bills. Abstract 2. Vouchers 6-36 in the amount of \$149,747.67. A Motion to approve payment was made by Woeppel, second Leon. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm with a Motion by Pindar, second Leon. Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Middlefield Town Board will be March 14, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Beth Moakler
Town Clerk