

Select Board

- √ Peter Hood, Chair
- √ Mary Just Skinner,
Vice Chair
- √ Bill Callnan
- Mary Hood Alexander
- √ Steve Martin

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, June 25, 2013
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602

Minutes

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Skinner, Select Board Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, and Mary Hood Alexander. Lise Wexler, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Fire Chief Doug Hanson, Fire Department Member Jeff Koonz, bookkeeper Patti Lewis, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merri-man also were present, as was Treasurer Cindy Carlson via conference call.

Call To Order

1. Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Presentation by Lise Wexler

2. Lise Wexler of Strider Development described her proposed expansion and remodeling of the old Camp Meade property on Route 2. She said the project would be separated into two phases. In Phase I, Strider planned to rework parking to improve safety. In addition, Strider planned this summer to construct a wraparound porch and designate green space in the front to dissuade people from parking on Route 2. In Phase II, 3,000 new square feet would be built, ideally next year with tenants yet to come. Bill expressed support for the project.

The Highway Department's plans to prevent mud season problems on Center Road

3. Paul said the Highway Department planned to focus on a strip of Center Road from where the pavement ends up to Caleb Dean's driveway sometime in July. Plans included stripping 18" to two feet of material from the surface to effectively address complaints that the road has become too "built up" over the years. From Caleb Dean's to Notch Road, the road crew will excavate out another 18" of material replacing it with fabric, crushed stone and gravel in an attempt to mitigate some of the worst mud season problems. This would require closing the road for several days, depending on the weather and road conditions. Steve, who is also the Road Commissioner, said that if this works, the department might look at doing the same to Molly Supple and East Hill Roads, though those are harder to close since there's no easy bypass.
4. Steve said the cost to improve Center Road might be in the \$20,000 range, depending on how many culverts need to be installed. This apportionment will come out of budgeted expenses.

Mold at the Town Garage

5. Peter said Paul contacted him about mold growing on his wall in the Town Garage on Shady Rill Road. When Clorox failed to remove the mold, Peter called Middlesex resident and mold expert Steve Ribolini who said because of the way the garage is sided by an embankment, snow is able to pile on the roof and then melt into the metal walls when the temperature rises. Peter said Steve Ribolini recommended removing the mold and lowering the bank so a plow can remove snow from all sides of

the garage. Steve Martin said the mold does not pose a serious health problem, but it does need to be removed.

6. Peter suggested that Steve Ribolini be hired to do a full assessment and then submit a proposal for mold removal that Peter expected would come in at \$17,000. At that point, the Select Board could decide whether to choose Steve Ribolini or someone else to do the final work. Steve Martin said the cost would come out of the road budget. The Board agreed this was the best approach.

Bandstand access

7. Paul updated the Board about creating motor vehicle access to the bandstand by the Town Garage so vendors and bands could safely unload without driving on the grass. He said he had marked out the driveway and would just need to complete it at a cost of \$200 to \$300. Peter noted that the Board had already approved this project so Paul could go ahead. Bill said there was no need for Paul to commit to a timeline, such as finishing the access road by the first concert on July 10, because with the rainy weather that would be almost impossible.

Moretown Animal Control Officer Shane Grace as Interim ACO for Middlesex

8. Sarah said Moretown's ACO, Shane Grace, had agreed to serve as Middlesex's Interim ACO under the following conditions: a call to go out and handle an animal would cost \$45 with \$15/hour on top of that plus mileage. Bill suggested a counter offer with \$45 for the first two hours plus \$15 for every additional hour and mileage. Also, Mary Skinner said Shane needs to take stray animals to the Central Vermont Humane Society and not the pound he uses in Moretown because the Town pays an annual fee to CVHS. If Shane agrees, then the Board would consider his appointment at the next meeting, though the town would continue to look for a Middlesex resident to permanently assume the job.

The Fire Department critiques a proposed Service Reimbursement Ordinance

9. Fire Chief Doug Hanson itemized several problems with a proposed Service Reimbursement Ordinance that would give the Town grounds to collect from insurance companies for costs incurred by non-Middlesex residents. He expressed concern that people in Town would erroneously believe they would be charged for services their tax dollars already supported or that they might not report a fire for fear that they would be charged.
10. Bill stressed that no Middlesex residents would be billed unless they had been cited by the police for DUI, negligent operation of a vehicle, etc. He also said the drafted ordinance was too long and should just pertain to accidents on I-89, though Doug noted most of the accidents his department handled were on state roads such as 100b and Route 2. Peter reiterated that that ordinance should simply pertain to motor vehicle accidents in general and hazardous materials calls.
11. Peter said the Town would use the money to support the Fire Department within the Town's budget.
12. Doug also said there should be 30 days for a motorist to appeal and that the Select Board Assistant should submit the invoices. Sarah was to rewrite the ordinance and present another draft at the next meeting.

End of year financial report

13. Treasurer Cindy Carlson called in to report that the Town would end the fiscal year with a positive balance due to collecting more taxes than anticipated. Cindy suggested using the Discretionary Fund to pay for \$9,000 of the new well that was constructed at Town Hall.
14. **Peter moved to transfer \$9,000 of the Discretionary Fund to the Building Fund to reimburse costs for the Town Hall well. Bill seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.**

15. The Board agreed to set the 2013 tax rate at the regularly scheduled July 9 meeting.
16. The Board also reviewed the annual financial questionnaire from the Vermont State Auditor's Office.

Approval of Neighborhood Watch Signs for Portal and McCullough Hill roads

17. Per the Board's previous instructions that Neighborhood Watch signs must truthfully represent residents watching out for potential crime, Neighborhood Watch organizer Mike Pelcher submitted the names (attached) of two residents of Portal Road and two others on McCullough Hill Road who are members of the Neighborhood Watch Committee.
18. **Bill moved and Mary Skinner seconded a motion to approve those roads for Neighborhood Watch Signs. The motion passed with all in favor.**
19. Peter suggested the Board maintain its annual tradition of eliminating a summer meeting. The Board tentatively agreed that the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting for August 13, 2013, be cancelled, though that could change if urgent business arose. If not, the cancellation would be duly warned.

Other business

20. **Bill moved to approve the June 11, 2013, Select Board Minutes. Steve seconded. The motion passed.**
21. All orders were signed.

Adjournment

22. Peter declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Assistant to the Middlesex Select Board