

Select Board

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602

Minutes

Present: Board Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, Mary Hood Alexander, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Anthony Iazzo and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call To Order

1. Mary Skinner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Removing the pull-off on Chase Road

2. Chase Road resident Anthony Iazzo asked the Board to eliminate a recently-constructed pull off near his house that had been initially designed for Town highway vehicles during their summer road improvement project. The landing is in the Town's right of way and Tony said people might use it as a place to park their cars and go hunting or worse. He said he has seen an uptick in just the last year of hunters trespassing, discharging firearms and, in one case, even installing deer cameras on his property. Moreover, Tony said he can't see the point of another landing on a dead-end road that's relatively unused.
3. Steve Martin, who is also the Road Commissioner, said the landing was always intended to be permanent. Casey Ellison's development at the end of Chase Road means there will be construction vehicles and, later, utility trucks, snowplows and, in rare instances, emergency vehicles. They will need a place to pull off to allow for passing cars.
4. Bill suggested putting up signs that say "No Parking," but Tony said he doubted that would be effective.
5. Mary Skinner said maybe the Board members needed to check out the landing for themselves. The Board agreed to inspect the landing and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

Sarah Seidman's culvert issue

6. Steve said Sarah Seidman of Culver Hill Road has inquired about whether the Town can help her with four culverts that were constructed on her property during the 1980s as part of a government grant. The culverts are now failing and her farm is being flooded. The Board discussed the question and decided that since the culverts had not been built by the Town and since they were on private property, it really wasn't a Town matter.

Highway update

7. Steve said the improvement on Center Road has been very effective. The highway department has removed six-to-eight inches of buildup to uncover really good gravel. Once they reach the right elevation, they will add drainage material and some new gravel and hopefully be finished by mid-September.

Ratifying a waiver for the 8% late fee on Homestead Declaration forms

8. Treasurer Cindy Carlson advised the Board to ratify a decision to waive an 8% penalty the State automatically imposed on Vermont residents who failed to file a Homestead Declaration form (HS-122) by April 15, 2013. Approximately 50 Middlesex taxpayers would be hit with the fee that Cindy said was too harsh for filing a single form late.
9. Cindy also suggested that the Board make the waiver a standing rule so it wouldn't have to remember to address the penalty each spring.
10. Bill agreed that it was a huge penalty for filing one form, but Mary Alexander wondered if non compliers would even bother filing if they knew they wouldn't be penalized. She said it might be wise for the Board to reassess the situation next year.

MOTION: Mary Alexander moved to waive for one year collection of the 8% HS-122 late penalty. Bill seconded. The motion passed.

11. For the purposes of complying with state rules for proper public notification, the Board considered re-approval of a Service Reimbursement Ordinance that had been adopted at the July 9, 2013 Select Board Meeting.

MOTION: Mary Alexander moved and Bill seconded a motion to reapprove the Service Reimbursement Ordinance. The motion passed.

12. The Board discussed how to fund a bill of \$11,600 from S/R Services to remove mold at the Town garage. The Board decided to address how to fund the mold abatement at the next meeting since the bill was already included in that night's warrant.

MOTION: Mary Alexander moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve hiring S/R Services to remove damaged materials, clean the area in the highway garage with Microban, seal with Foster and install new sheetrock and trim for \$11,600, the exact source of the funding to be determined later. The motion passed.

At 5:35 p.m. the Board recessed to attend meetings of the Board of Civil Authority and the Board of Abatement.

At 6:45 p.m. Mary Skinner reconvened the meeting.

13. Cindy informed the Board that lawyer Elizabeth McGill, who had been handling the Town's tax sales, had closed her practice. Cindy suggested hiring lawyer Rob Halpert, of the Montpelier firm Zalinger, Cameron and Lambeck, to handle tax sales with the agreement that he charge delinquent taxpayers a capped rate of 15% of the total delinquent tax amounts and nothing to the Town.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded hiring Rob Halpert to handle the Town's tax sales. The motion passed.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the July 9, 2013 minutes. The motion passed.

14. All orders were signed.

Mary Skinner adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant