

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, December 10, 2013
5:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

Present: Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner, Member Steve Martin and Chairman Peter Hood via speakerphone, Town Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Budget Committee Member Shaun Fielder, George Longenecker, Conservation Commission member Barry Goodman, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call To Order

1. Mary called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Appointing George Longenecker to the Budget Committee

2. **Motion: Appoint George to an interim Budget Committee position vacated by Tim Hayward who resigned last month due to health reasons. Peter moved and Steve seconded. The motion passed.**

Appointing George Longenecker to the Conservation Commission

3. **Motion: Approve the Conservation Commission's request that the Select Board appoint George to the Conservation Commission. Steve moved and Peter seconded. The motion passed.**

FY 15 BUDGET WORKSHOPS

The Conservation Commission

4. **Renewing the Conservation Fund's annual request for \$5,000.**
Barry asked the Board to place the on upcoming 2014 Town Meeting Warning a request to appropriate \$5,000 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund. Peter asked how many years the Select Board has done this and Barry said that in recent memory every year but 2008. Barry said the Conservation Commission preferred the Select Board's support instead of seeking petitions. Peter suggested that the Board provisionally agree to the Commission's request unless during budget finalizations the \$5,000 appeared to be unrealistic. Barry said there was currently \$2,451 in the fund since money had been withdrawn for legal fees. Peter said that was all the more reason to restore the funds.
5. **The Conservation Commission's total budget.** The Conservation Commission sought its usual \$1,000 annual appropriation. However, Cindy noted that in FY 2013 year the Commission spent only \$167.52. Shaun noted that in 2012 and 2011 the Commission had spent approximately \$101 and then \$186. Peter recommended reducing the appropriation to \$500 and that if the Commission needed more money during the year, the Select Board would be willing to oblige.

General Town Budget

6. **Town Government.** Cindy suggested level funding the Select Board. Peter noted that actual legal fees for 2013 were \$5,116.70, though \$3,000 had been budgeted. He said the pay-as-you-go system of legal representation which the town was doing was more expensive than if the town simply retained an attorney. Cindy said she had tried to shop for a town attorney this year and hadn't been able to find a reasonable deal. Peter suggested modifying the line item for legal fees upward to \$4,000.
7. **Town Hall.** Peter said he would like money to be set aside to clean up and protect the area around the new well. He also wondered if additional money should be appropriated to restore the "Old Fire Station" behind Town Hall if, in fact, the Select Board decided to use that space for cold storage. Cindy added that Town Hall itself required repairs, especially the windows, one of which had a hole in it covered by duct tape. For the time being, Peter suggested combining improvements to Town Hall and the Old Fire Station in one line item.
8. **Wages and Salaries.** Peter revisited the issue of the Highway Department's proposed 2% pay increase plus an additional \$.25/hour for the Road Crew. He wondered if 2% was enough and if the Board should apply the same increases to other town employees. Steve said he liked the \$.25/hour increase because it elevated the wages of lower-earning employees. Shaun said that altogether, both pay raises amounted to a raise of approximately 3.5% depending on the number of hours actually worked.
9. **Continuing the budget workshop at a Special Meeting of the Select Board.** The Board agreed to continue discussions of the FY 15 budget at a Special Meeting at 9 a.m., December 31, in the Town Clerk's Office.

Other Business

10. **Motion: Approve the November 26, 2013 Select Board minutes. Peter moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed.**
11. **Motion: Approve a 2nd Class License issued by the Vermont Department of Liquor Control for the Middlesex Country Store to sell tobacco, beer and wine. Peter moved and Steve seconded. The motion passed.**
12. Orders. Mary and Steve signed the Orders at the meeting. Peter signed the Orders on December 12, 2013.
13. Mary called the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.