

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
5:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner, Mary Hood Alexander, Bill Callnan (by speaker phone), Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Budget Committee Members Shaun Fielder and George Longenecker, Auditor Helen Weed, William Yacavoni, CPA, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order

1. Peter called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Reviewing Cost/Benefit Analysis of Purchasing a Pickup Truck

2. The Board reviewed Road Foreman Paul Cerminara's cost/benefit analysis that purchasing a pickup truck would save \$9,212.64 over the Highway Department's 2009 Ford F-550 in a 5-year period. The Ford F-550 has 59,436 miles with an average mileage per year of 11,887. However it only gets 5.85 miles per gallon.
3. In contrast, according to Paul's analysis, a 2014 GM 2500HD with a 6.0L gas motor has an EPA estimated mileage of 14-17 miles per gallon while a 2014 Ford F-250 with a 6.2L gas motor would get 12-15 miles per gallon. Calculating the potential mileage of 5,000 miles per year performing light duties, Paul estimated the cost of using the current F-550 to do that would be \$15,405.39 while a pickup would cost \$6,192.75. Hence the savings of \$9,212.64.
4. Peter said that purchasing a new, lighter pickup might reduce wear and tear on the F-550 so it can last longer. However, he stressed that the truck would not be obtained until July 2014 so there would be no impact on the upcoming budget. The Board agreed to discuss it further at subsequent meetings.

Other Business

5. **The Board signed the 2013 Certification of Road and Bridges Standards, the Certificate of Highway Mileage and the Municipality Certificate as to Municipal Bond.**
6. **Mary Just Skinner moved and Mary Alexander seconded approval of the Minutes of the December 31, 2013 Special Select Board Meeting. The motion passed.**
7. **All Orders were signed.**

Audit Review by William Yacavoni, CPA.

8. Bill reviewed the highlights of his recently completed audit of the Town's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. He said the audit went well and found virtually no discrepancies. He added that the Town was now following best practices by

- spreading the duties once held by the Town Clerk/Treasurer among a new part-time bookkeeper, the Treasurer and a separate Town Clerk though, to Cindy Carlson's credit, Bill said there were no irregularities when Cindy juggled all those responsibilities herself.
9. The Board discussed how to express the financing of the excavator to show that it was mostly paid off in one year. Even with the purchase of the \$80,000 excavator, the Town came to within \$7,200 of breaking even.
 10. The Board also discussed whether it would be worthwhile in the future for the Town to do away with elected auditors and, instead, rely on a professional to audit the books annually.

Correcting the FY 2015 Proposed Budget

11. Cindy told the Board that due to mathematical errors at the December 31, 2013 Special Select Board meeting, the FY 2015 budget of \$1,070,567 the Board approved was actually \$21,000 higher than originally thought. This meant a 2% increase instead of no increase, which was the Board's intent when it added \$20,000 to the paving fund during the December budget workshop.
12. Peter said he still felt it was necessary to increase the paving fund because roads in Middlesex were in a state of decline and the State wasn't issuing road improvement grants as in years before. He suggested adding \$10,000, thereby increasing the budget by 1%.
13. Bill, Mary Alexander and Mary Skinner proposed adding \$8,000 instead. That brought the FY 2015 budget down to \$1,024,306 – an increase of .86%.
14. **Bill moved and Mary Alexander seconded a motion to pass the revised budget of \$1,024,306. The motion passed.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant