

**Select Board Members**

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Select Board Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Rumney School Board Chair Julie Moore and school board member Chris McVeigh, John Rahill and Heidi Davis of Black River Design, Rumney Facilities Committee member Dexter LeFavour, Cassandra Hemmenway of Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department Chief Doug Hanson and MVFF Jeff Koonz and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The agenda was amended to include the following items:

- 1) Paul's request to discuss hiring a new member of the road crew
- 2) The fire department's request to retire a pumper and purchase a US Air Force surplus fire engine
- 3) Washington Electric Cooperative's request for a permit to construct a 7200-electric distribution line on Center Road

**Executive Session**

Bill moved and Liz seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss potential hiring of a town employee as provided by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a). The motion passed unanimously and the board came out of executive session at 5:15 p.m.

**Proposed \$3.7 Million Rumney School Bond**

John, Heidi, Julie and Chris outlined plans for a proposed renovation of Rumney Memorial School that would improve the school's ventilation, install fire sprinklers, repair the roof, provide new breakout rooms, replace an aged boiler with one fueled by wood pellets, expand kitchen storage, make minor modifications so the facility could be a Red Cross Shelter and increase the overall space by 2,000 feet, though it would not increase the school's capacity beyond the currently approved 180 students.

The architects and school board members said the improvements would be the first significant ones in 20 years and would be paid for by a \$3.7 million bond they planned to bring to the voters at the November 4, 2014, General Election. A previous bond proposal for \$4.5 million failed in May 2013.

Julie estimated that the bond – which she described as “high impact, high value” – would add an additional \$100 per \$100,000 of assessed value to future tax bills.

Peter and Liz questioned whether the wood-pellet burner would decrease heating costs. Julie said it would and the board suggested that the school board show this savings in its literature promoting the bond.

#### **Request to Abate an Assessment Due to “Errors and Omissions”**

The Board considered a request by the Listers to reduce the 2014 assessment of a house owned by Peter Brown and Lisa Parrish due to mold issues that were brought to the town’s attention in July 2014. By a unanimous vote, the board denied the request because Brown and Parrish neither notified the Listers in April during the assessment period nor availed themselves of the grievance process in June, times provided for owners to notify Listers that there have been changes in value to their properties.

#### **Appointing Erika Holm as Assistant Health Officer**

**Motion: Bill moved and Steve seconded a motion to appoint Erika Holm as assistant health officer. The motion passed.**

#### **Contributing to a CVSPAB Picnic**

**Motion: Bill moved and Liz seconded a motion to contribute \$75 from the Select Board’s discretionary fund to the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board to be put toward a picnic.**

#### **Financial Reporting**

Cindy discussed financial reporting practices and informed the Board that it would receive a monthly report about taxes received and expenses incurred in the format they requested.

#### **Act 148 Changes**

Cassandra outlined how Act 148, a new universal recycling law to be phased in over the next six years, would affect municipalities, including Middlesex. One of the biggest changes would be the requirement that towns provide recycling containers wherever there are garbage cans.

#### **MVFD’s Request to Scrap a Mini-Pumper and Purchase a Surplus Pumper**

Doug and Jeff told the Board that a 1983 mini-pumper (E-2) could not be fixed and that a 1983 tanker (T-2) was in need of serious repair. Doug said he wanted to remove the tank from E-2, give it to Bolduc’s Salvage, and try to sell the truck. In addition, he noted that Jeff had found a US Air Force surplus 1995 KME pumper for sale at a cost of only \$30,000. If the town purchase this pumper, it could be housed at the fire station in Welch Park while the 2004 pumper (E-1) could be moved to the station at Shady Rill to replace the mini pumper.

The board discussed the pros, cons and costs of this proposal, factoring in how often the new pumper would be used, whether Middlesex would meet ISO standards without it and

the benefits of repairing T-2. Jeff said that since the fire department has just finished paying off the cost of the 2004 pumper (E-1) at \$15,000/year, the town could take out a new two-year loan for the 1995 KME pumper and pay that off the same way.

The board asked Jeff and Doug to investigate further and research how much it would cost to repair T-2, what the fire department could potentially recoup from selling E-2's truck and combine those numbers with the cost for the KME for a total package. Bill said Jeff and Doug could tell the current owners of the KME that the Select Board was very interested in the purchase, if that was necessary to secure the deal in a timely fashion.

#### **Other Business**

- 1) **Liz moved and Bill seconded approval of WEC's request to install a 7200-volt distribution line on Center Road. The motion passed.**
- 2) **Steve moved and Liz seconded approval of the August 26, 2014 Select Board minutes. Bill abstained. The motion passed.**
- 3) All orders were signed.

#### **Adjournment**

Peter declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant