

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, September 23, 2014
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Select Board Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Rumney Community Connections Coordinator Paul Dayton, Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department Chief Doug Hanson, MVFF President Jeff Koonz and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. The agenda was amended to include the following item:

- 1) Introduction of a proposal to support a two-year cap on statewide property taxes at 2015 levels.

**Use of BOR Building for Community Connections/
Revamping Tennis Courts**

Paul Dayton asked if he could use part of the BOR building at Rumney School for a "Vermont Tinker" workshop where elementary-school children in grades four to six could work on simple wood projects such as building bird houses. Bill agreed the building is not currently being used to its full potential, but said this was an issue for the Town Recreation Committee which oversees that building. Peter said he had no problem with the idea as long as the workshop didn't take over the entire structure. Paul said it wouldn't. He said he would go to the rec committee and possibly join so that he could have more involvement with the building.

Paul also noted that the tennis courts have fallen in to disrepair, though they are still salvageable, according to a Northern New England representative from the USTA who suggested his organization might have a grant to offset resurfacing costs. The Board approved of this idea, especially with grant funding because resurfacing could cost upwards of \$25,000 and right now the rec committee had only \$7500 in its fund.

Repairing Old Tankers/Purchasing a New Used One

Jeff Koonz said that Tanker 2 needs new springs and minor adjustments for a cost of approximately \$1,358. Engine 2, which is from 1981, might have a resale value of \$6,000. The Board agreed that these repairs were sound and could be paid from the Fire

Department's maintenance fund. They approved the sale of Engine 2 for the best offer available.

The Board also considered purchasing a 1995 engine that had been US Air Force surplus for \$30,000. Peter cautioned that Jeff and Doug should test drive and thoroughly inspect the engine before purchasing.

MOTION: Bill moved to spend up to \$30,000 on purchasing the 1995 engine contingent upon the Fire Department's satisfactory inspection paid for initially with a one-year note. Future financing should be resolved during the 2015 budgeting session. Liz seconded. The motion passed. Bill noted that any money from the sale of Engine 2 should go to help pay for the new truck.

Temporary Easement to State of Vermont at Culver Hill Road/Route 12

MOTION: Bill moved to grant a temporary easement to the State of Vermont on Culver Hill Road near Route 12 for consideration of \$250 while repairs are performed on a nearby bridge. Steve seconded. The motion passed.

Edmund Porter's Retirement from Town Highway Department

MOTION: Steve moved to accept the resignation/retirement of Edmund "Buster" Porter from the Town Highway Department with sincere gratitude for his service. Bill seconded. The motion passed. The Board also agreed to allocate \$500 from the discretionary fund as a gift to Buster.

Assorted Business

MOTION: Liz moved to approve the Select Board Minutes from the September 9, 2014 meeting with corrections. Bill seconded. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

The Board discussed a proposal submitted to select boards across Vermont urging them to lobby the Vermont Legislature to cap statewide property taxes at the 2015 rate for two years while pursuing a solution to rising property taxes. The Board agreed to place this item on the agenda for the October 14, 2014, meeting for a possible vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant/Town Clerk