

**Select Board Members**

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

**MINUTES**

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**

**Tuesday, December 09, 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, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Select Board Members Steve Martin, Liz Scharf, and Bill Callnan by speaker phone, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, David Specht, Austin and Aaron Weed, Budget Committee member George Longenecker, MVFD President 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 only in that the items were reordered for efficiency due to a snow storm that detained attendees.

**Potentially Selling Land Behind Town Hall to David Specht**

David, who owns the Middlesex General Store next door to Town Hall, said he was interested in potentially purchasing abutting town land so he could expand his store's septic system and perhaps install gasoline tanks. The Board agreed there would be no need for a subdivision since the land had previously been a separate parcel. Peter advised David to get an appraisal and then come to the Board with an offer.

**Austin Weed's Completion of Eagle Scout Project: Shelter by Fire Department**

U-32 High School Senior and Center Road resident Austin Weed told the Board he had finished building the shelter behind the Middlesex Fire Department in Welch Park thanks to materials donated by area vendors. With the project complete, Austin has made Eagle Scout and will be formally inducted during a ceremony at Town Hall on December 27<sup>th</sup>. His father, Aaron, said he and Austin planned on maintaining the area so it could be used for camping, etc. Peter said the Board was delighted to accept the project and was excited about the Weeds' pledge to remain involved. In addition, the Board also thanked the vendors who donated materials.

**Request to Drive Snowmobiles on portions of Center and South Bear Swamp Roads**

Aaron asked the Board for approval to run snowmobiles from trails near Bushey Road, across the intersection at Center Road and up South Bear Swamp in order to connect with off-road trails. Property owners in that area had refused to give him permission. Mary said the issue would need to be warned before the Board could vote on it and Peter suggesting researching the policies of other Towns that allow snowmobiles on Class 3 roads.

### **A Winter Road Policy**

Paul submitted a draft of a winter road policy detailing during what time town roads are plowed, prohibitions against plowing from driveways into the road and cautions about sanding. The Board reviewed the policy and made amendments. It will be reviewed and possibly voted on at the next meeting on January 13, 2015.

### **Budget Workshops**

The Highway Department, Fire Department and Treasurer presented their first drafts for the FY16 budget. Jeff noted a huge increase in dispatch services for Capital West, an increase, George said, of 100% from 2013. Cindy suggested raising the salaries of town employees, especially the Listers who make only \$12.75/hour. Peter said this was a challenge since he would like to keep the overall budget increase to 2%.

### **Other Business**

All Orders were signed.

**MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the 2015 contract with the Central Vermont Humane Society. The motion passed.** (Bill was not present for this portion.)

**MOTION: Mary moved and Liz approved the minutes from the November 11, 2014 Select Board Meeting.** (Bill was not present for this portion.)

Correspondence: The Board reviewed a November 20, 2014 letter from VLCT noting that dues for FY16 were rising by 3 cents per capita to a cost of \$1,731 for Middlesex.

A November 19, 2014, email from Nancy Reilly on Notch Road requesting that snow plows escort school buses on icy mornings was read into the record. In addition, Sarah told the Board about a similar complaint on the same day from Marcia Sibley regarding what she perceived as inadequate plowing on Government Hill Road.

The Board discussed a recent complaint from a mother in town that her daughter's name, birthdate and the names of her parents had been published under BIRTHS in the 2012 Middlesex Town Report without her knowledge. Sarah asked the Board about adopting a policy of publishing only numbers of births, deaths and marriages instead of names and dates. Peter noted such information was public record and by state statute the town is permitted to annually publish these vital statistics in the town report. The Board agreed to keep the entries as is since only one parent has complained so far.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.