

Select Board Members

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

MINUTES

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

5:00 PM

Middlesex Town Clerk's Office

5 Church Street

Middlesex, Vermont 05602

(802) 223-5915

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, MVFD President Jeff Koonz, Budget Committee member George Longenecker 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 remove the issue about snowmobiling on Center and South Bear Swamp roads since the problem was resolved among neighboring private property owners.

Winter Road Policy

The Board reviewed a revised draft of the Winter Road Policy and made minor semantical adjustments. **MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the revised policy. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote. All Board members aside from Bill signed the policy.**

December 19, 2014 Minutes

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approval of the December 9, 2014 Select Board Minutes. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

MVFD FY16 Budget & New Engine Repair

Jeff presented a revised budget that was reduced by \$1,900 from the previous version. Bill complimented him on paring down and the Board agreed that the highest single cost, for dispatching, was out of the town's control. However, Jeff said the new 1995 engine which the fire department purchased from state surplus last fall needed extensive repairs. He suggested borrowing an additional \$10,000 next year. After discussing this, the Board agreed it was better to get the repairs done now instead of waiting until July. After this, Jeff said, repairs to the engine over the next four years should be due to maintenance and mostly minimal. **MOTION: Steve moved and Bill seconded immediately taking out an additional \$10,000 (on top of the prior \$30,000 note to buy the engine) to pay for repairs. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.**

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board expressed dismay that the proposed FY16 budget so far showed an increase of over 4% and tried to pare down expenses. It was agreed that the Listers, Animal Control

Officer and Health Officer should be compensated at a higher rate than \$11/hour. It was also agreed that Steve Martin should receive a Select Board stipend of \$750/year, the same as the chair of the Select Board, because he serves double duty as Road Commissioner. Salaries for other town employees would receive a 2% cost-of-living raise. The Board discussed reducing the debt service on several pieces of equipment and to address the remaining issues – as well as finalize the budget – at its next meeting on January 27th.

2105 TOWN REPORT

The Board agreed that this year's report should be dedicated to Frank and Pat Allen, the town's first zoning administrator and female Select Board member respectively. Sarah suggested publishing the Births without identifying the babies by name or exact birth date, using, instead, the gender of the baby and perhaps the month born. The change was prompted by a mother who raised concerns that once online information such as the baby's name, exact birthdate and mother's maiden name could be used for nefarious purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approval of Bill Yacavoni's audit report for FY2014. The motion passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approval of placing a Special Article on the 2015 Town Warning asking voters to add \$5,000 to the Conservation Fund. The motion passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded appointing Lee Rosberg to the Conservation Committee. The motion passed. (Bill had left the meeting.)

MOTION: Liz moved and Mary seconded approval of the 2015 Certification of Highway Mileage. The motion passed and all Board members aside from Bill signed the certificate.

The Board reviewed the annual letter from the Vermont Department of Property Valuation and review that set Middlesex's Equalized Education Property Value at \$202,744,000 and Coefficient of Dispersion at 8.83% effective 1/1/2015.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant