

Select Board Members

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

MINUTES

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

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 Steve Martin and Liz Scharf ; Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner and member Bill Callnan attended by conference call, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Budget Committee member George Longenecker and Town Moderator/Town Meeting Solutions Committee member Susan Clark.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

FY'16 BUDGET WORKSHOP/BUDGET VOTE

The Board discussed the budget and adjusted it to include two roadside mowings instead of one during the middle of the summer when invasive plants are seeding, as has been the practice in the past. To pay for this, 50% of the cost will be from the discretionary fund and 50% from the Summer Maintenance line item in the highway budget.

In addition, the Board discussed energy improvements to the highway building, referring to a 2010 energy audit. Paul said the highway crew could complete the improvements during their off seasons and the town would not have to incur labor costs. The Board discussed using funds from the building fund to cover these materials. There was discussion of posting a special article stating that the funds would be taken from the building fund or adding a note to this effect in the Select Board's report in the 2014 Town Report. Paul will gather material costs and report back to the Board.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the 2015-2016 town budget at \$1,052,974 before special article requests. Vote was by roll call because some members were attending by conference call; the motion passed unanimously.

2015 Town Meeting Warning

The Board discussed the draft of the Town Warning. Bill suggested that the discount for prepayment of property taxes be reduced from 1.5% to 1% and the penalty for late payment of taxes be changed from .7% to .5%.

MOTION: Bill moves and Liz seconds amending Article 5 of the 2015 Town Meeting Warning to read: "To see if the Town will vote a discount of 1% on the net property taxes, exclusive of tax rebates, if the total annual tax is paid in full within 30 days of issuance of the tax bill and to change Article 7 to read: "To see if the Town will charge interest at the rate of .5% per month or a fraction thereof on

overdue tax installments from the due date of the tax.” Vote was by roll call; the motion passed unanimously.

The Conservation Fund Article

Mary asked that Article #19 about adding \$5,000 to the Conservation Fund be moved up to Article 9.

MOTION: Liz moved and Bill seconded approving the above changes. Vote was by roll call; the motion passed.

The 2014 Select Board Report

The proposed Select Board report was reviewed and amended to include mention of the roadway mowing plan and the use of funds for energy improvements at town buildings in 2015.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the above changes in the 2014 Select Board Report. Vote was by roll call; the motion passed unanimously.

Bill and Mary left the conference call at 6 p.m.

2015 Town Meeting Preparation

Moderator Susan Clark discussed the upcoming Town Meeting. Remote participation will be offered, though it was difficult to determine if anyone would be interested. Child care is being arranged. Dinner will be served as it has in the past. Susan discussed recent posts on Front Porch Forum regarding adding a pledge of allegiance at the beginning of the meeting. The Board and Susan agreed that flags should be presented without the pledge which could shift the focus of Town Meeting.

Solar Siting

The Board also discussed a resolution presented by the Town of Rutland concerning solar siting in the State of Vermont. The Town of Rutland has created Solar Siting standards. It was the Board’s opinion that state senators and representatives should be contacted if the town was concerned by the current process. The resolution was passed over.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTIN: Steve moves and Liz seconds approval of Red Hen’s liquor license renewal. The motion passed.

The Board discussed the dispatch service for the MVFD. The Town of Plainfield has asked Peter to participate in a community meeting of the towns that use the dispatch service. Peter expressed an interest in being involved in the process and will keep the Board apprised.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Carlson