

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair Peter Hood (by speaker phone), Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Select Board Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Doug Hayes, Brian Van Hoy, David Specht and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Mary called the meeting to order at 5:05. The board reviewed an amended agenda that included signing a \$10,000 bond note to pay for previously approved fire truck repairs, Nutty Steph's annual liquor license renewal and a presentation from Paul

Doug Hayes/Middlesex Recreation Committee

Doug complained that having been appointed to the Recreation Committee in 2013, he was never notified that the committee had disbanded in the spring of 2014 or reformed on August 26, 2014, when the board appointed Jason Merrill and a list of candidates to be members of the newly organized committee. He asked to be reappointed but Peter said he first wanted to know what the underlying issues were that would cause such friction.

Rec Committee member Brian Van Hoy said part of the problem was that Doug and he were advocates of youth soccer whereas the Recreation Committee, in his view, was geared more toward baseball. He wanted Doug appointed to the committee for a more balanced approach.

Steve and Peter suggested inviting Doug and the Recreation Committee to the March 24, 2015, Select Board meeting so everyone could put their issues on the table. Liz noted that according to town rules, it was the Select Board – not the Rec Committee – that appointed members. Doug and Brian said they would attend the meeting.

David Specht/Assessments for Buying Town Property

David, owner of the Middlesex Country Store, presented several assessments on properties comparable to the former Morse property now owned by the town behind Town Hall with an eye toward potentially purchasing the lot. Mary said the board needed more time to study the assessments and research the legalities involved in selling town land. David was invited to return to the February 24, 2015, Select Board meeting.

Health Savings Account (HSA) for Couples and Families

Cindy said the board set the annual HSA contribution in October 2013 for single employees only because no families or couples were on health insurance plans. Now that the town plan covered a family, the board needed to set that rate.

MOTION: Steve moved and Peter seconded a motion to increase the annual HSA contribution for couples and families from \$2,250 annually to \$2,350. The motion passed with a unanimous roll-call vote.

2010 Dump Truck Notes

Cindy said she noticed two \$20,000 notes to pay for the 2010 dump truck were inadvertently left off the 2015/16 budget already published in the 2014 Town Report. Peter said he'd discussed this with Cindy and came to the conclusion that inserting an amended budget into the Town Report was not feasible. The board agreed that they could address the issue later on in the year by paying for the note and its 1.97% interest from the fund balance, the discretionary fund or by extending the debt service. Cindy said she would like to make more regularly scheduled appearances at board meetings to improve communication on finances, perhaps at the beginning of each month when financials are available.

Repairing the 2009 Ford-550

Paul told the board that the Highway Department's Ford-550, which is slated to be replaced in 2016, has been offline for a month due to engine failure. Estimates to repair the truck run from \$46,000 to \$48,000 after an initial purchase price of \$54,900. Peter noted that one-ton trucks like this are not rugged enough to handle the work required. The board agreed that Paul should gather additional information and return to the February 24, 2015 board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded renewing Nutty Steph's liquor license. The motion passed by a roll-call vote.

The board reviewed correspondence from Onion River Soccer asking for permission to use the town field this spring. Peter said the town needed to outline firm guidelines for the field's use. The board agreed to discuss the matter at the March 24, 2015 Select Board meeting when the Rec Committee was scheduled to be present.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded approval of the January 27, 2015 Select Board Minutes. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant