

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Members Steve Martin, Bill Callnan, Liz Scharf and Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Bill Rossmassler, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were no amendments

Veteran's Day/Safety Wear/Vacation Carryover/Road Crew Pay

The Board reviewed hourly pay and benefits for road crews working in nearby and similar-sized communities. In addition, Paul said the road crew was not happy with two changes in the recently updated personnel policy: the elimination of Veterans' Day as a holiday and the reduction of vacation carryover days from 20 to 10 per year. Also, after attending an OSHA workshop, he suggested that the Town pay for necessary safety equipment such as steel-toed boots.

The Board passed over the issue of pay so Paul and Steve, the Road Commissioner, could conduct more research.

MOTION: Bill moved and Liz seconded reinstating Veterans' Day as a paid holiday for town employees, increasing to fifteen (15) the number of unused vacation days that can be carried over from one year to the next, and reimbursing Highway Department employees up to \$200/year for steel-toed boots provided the employees submit receipts and wear the boots to work. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Executive Session

MOTION: Liz moved and Bill seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss potential legal issues. This motion was unanimously approved by a roll-call vote. The Board exited executive session 20 minutes later on a motion by Bill that was seconded by Steve and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Potential 99-Year Lease for Cynthia Steed

Bill Rossmassler updated the Board on efforts to purchase 38.9 acres owned by Cynthia Steed that would provide public access to the Town Forest. A subcommittee of volunteers appointed to review the proposal planned to meet on September 10 and submit its recommendations to the MCC at a subsequent meeting. Meanwhile, Bill will present a draft lease to Cynthia that would permit her and her heirs to use one camp and a surrounding area for 99 years. That "buffer zone" needs clarification. Bill would also present Cynthia with the possibility of the town paying \$20,000 from the Conservation Fund for the property as a down payment with the balance paid over the next four years.

Approval to Sell the "Morse Property" to DAMSTAT, LLC

The Board reviewed a Quit Claim draft that would deed 1.6 +/- acres of town land behind Town Hall – formerly known as the Morse Property – to DAMSTAT, LLC, owners of the Middlesex Country Store, an adjoining neighbor, for \$21,500. The Board noted that notice of the intended sale had been duly warned and approved at the July 28, 2015, regularly scheduled Select Board meeting. Said notice had been posted at three public places around town and run as a legal ad in the Times-Argus, the designated paper of record as required under V.S.A. 24 §1061 (a) (1) and that no petition with 5% of the registered voters of Middlesex had been submitted to the Town Clerk within 30 days of those posting.

MOTION: Bill moved and Liz seconded selling the 1.6 +/- acres behind Town Hall, formerly known as the Morse Property, to DAMSTAT, LLC for \$21,500. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Municipal Dog Ordinance

Motion: Peter moved and Steve seconded passing over the dog ordinance. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board granted Doug Lombard's request for permission to plant two raised garden beds on town land behind the rock wall on his land provided that he sign a written agreement that would be up for renewal every five years noting that such permission could not be used to establish a claim of adverse possession and that he would remove the garden beds and restore the property to its current state when he was done.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded granting approval to the Town Treasurer to e-sign state grants that have been previously approved by the Select Board. The motion passed. No roll call vote was taken as Mary had left the meeting.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded approval of the 8.25.2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed. Bill abstained.

All Orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant