

**Select Board Members**

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

**MINUTES**

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**

**Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

**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, Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, and Bill Callnan by speakerphone. Treasurer and Zoning Administrator Cindy Carlson. MVFD Treasurer Bob Bowers, MVFD President Jeff Koonz, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Bill Rossmassler and Middlesex Conservation Chair Dave Shepard. The Middlesex Budget Committee: George Longenecker, Bill Dorigan, Ruth Dockter, Elias Gardner and Barry Bolio. Scottie and Robert Brower and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order**

Mary called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. since Peter was calling in by speakerphone at the beginning of the meeting. There were no amendments.

**FY17 Budget Workshops**

**Middlesex Fire Department**

MVFD Treasurer Bob Bower presented the fire department's budget which reflected less than a 1 % increase. The big expenses were a 10% increase in telephone costs and a 5.5% increase for Capital West which does dispatching. Cindy noted there was no line item for the administrative assistant and Bob said that was because that job had been eliminated. Bob also identified two water problems at the Welch Park station. The dry hydrant is clogged and a 2" pipe from the pond to the station has hardly any pressure. Steve recalled that this problem existed before the fire department moved to Welch Park and the Board recommended that the fire department contact the engineers to determine the origin and solution to the problem.

**Highway Department/McCullough Hill Road Upgrade**

Paul proposed an \$8,200 increase in the budget after removing streetlights which, he noted, the Board voted to do at a previous meeting this year. He also suggested a \$1/hr raise for members of the road crew along with a 1.5% increase for cost of living. He said the overtime hours budgeted were based on the previous year's totals. The price of winter sand would be increased by 25 cents per yard for 5,000 yards, though a drop in fuel prices to \$2.75/gallon was a significant savings. Next year, paving Shady Rill was a must and that there was \$89,000 in the paving fund with an additional \$30,000 earmarked, though that might not be enough. He also wanted to buy a plate compactor for approximately \$2,500.

Scottie and Robert Brower, residents of McCullough Hill Road, asked if next year the .4 mile Class 4 portion of their road could be upgraded to Class 3. The Board noted it had been down this road – not to pun – before and had experienced a pushback from some residents in town. Bill Callnan suggested gathering names on a petition to show support for this upgrade before the Select Board called for a public hearing on the issue. The Browsers agreed to do that and return with the petitions to the next Select Board meeting.

#### **Town Office Budget**

Cindy discussed a plan to spend \$36,000 amortized over three years to digitize many of the land records. This would eliminate the card catalog and free up space in the crowded vault. All office wages would be lumped together under office payroll. Before the Budget Committee left to have its organizational meeting, George said that, preliminarily, he hoped the Select Board would keep its increases to less than 3%. The Board concurred. Bill suggested it be added to the budget as a place holder and then left the meeting.

#### **Draft Revised Zoning Regulations**

Cindy distributed copies of the drafted revised zoning regulations she and the Planning Commission have been working on for over a year. She said the plan was to get feedback from the Select Board for the November 11, 2015, Planning Commission meeting. The PC then hoped to hold a public hearing on December 16, 2015 before giving a redrafted copy to the Select Board by January 2016. If all went well, the goal was to hold a special town meeting in May during which the regulations would be voted on by Australian ballot. She said regulations were revised to clarify language and close loopholes, though permitted uses in certain districts had been expanded. The Board agreed to review the draft and make any suggestions at the next Select Board meeting.

#### **Steed Property Update**

Bill Rossmassler said that the squatters in Cynthia Steed's camp at the end of Notch Road had not challenged their eviction order by the deadline of October 26. Therefore, they had to move out. In the meantime, he has spoken with Ryan McCall, an environmental enforcement officer with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, who is investigating violations at the camp because the squatters lived there for more than 20 days consecutively without adequate wastewater provisions. He said Ryan would close the case when the squatters left but that the lease with Steed should note that only she and her kin can occupy the cabin and then no more than 20 days consecutively nor more than 60 days per year.

In addition, the Board noted that the lease should be limited to 99 years (it can always be renewed) and that the purchase and sale agreement should require a letter from McCall's division clarifying that there is no need for a wastewater system as long as the 20-day condition is met. Also, Steed's prorated taxes and interest on the unpaid balance should be subtracted from the sales price.

**Approval of Larry Becker and Dick Alderman to the Conservation Commission**  
**MOTION: Peter moved and Liz seconded appointing Larry Becker and Dick Alderman to the Middlesex Conservation Commission. The motion passed.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION: Peter moved and Steve seconded approval of the 10.13.2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.**

The orders were amended and signed.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant

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