

Select Board Members

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

MINUTES

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, November 10, 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, Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, and Bill Callnan by speakerphone. Treasurer and Zoning Administrator Cindy Carlson. The Middlesex Budget Committee: George Longenecker, Bill Dorigan, Ruth Dockter, Elias Gardner and Barry Bolio. Scottie and Robert Brower, Vic Dwyer, Charlie Merriman, Bill Rossmassler and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Guests were welcomed. There were no amendments, but since Cindy was delayed, the Board tackled other business first.

Other Business

The Board reviewed a letter from Paul Meehan, a sixth grader at Rumney School, asking permission to improve the part of the school's nature trail that extends across town land to the edge of the Town Garage.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded allowing the Rumney Nature Trail Rebuilders to extend the school's nature trail across town land. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded the execution of a Merchants Bank note for \$35,000 which covers \$20,000 on the 2010 International Truck and \$15,000 on the 1995 MVFD truck. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote

FY17 Budget Workshops

Office Payroll

Despite a proposed increase of \$1/hour for the office staff along with a cost-of-living increase of 1.5%, the overall impact on the budget would be only \$6,500 because of a decrease in office hours. The Board discussed whether to increase employee health-care funding. The general consensus was that the BC/BS Silver High Deductible plan with an HSA was ideal because employees could sock away money for future, unanticipated health-care emergencies in a pretax fund, while withdrawing for non-covered expenses such as eye and dental care. Ruth, George and Bill requested a comparison of health-care plans.

McCullough Hill Road Upgrade

At the request of the Board at its October 27 meeting, Scottie Brower, a resident of McCullough Hill Road, submitted an informal petition with 91 signatures of Middlesex voters asking that the Board upgrade .40 of a mile of McCullough Hill Road from Class 4 to Class 3. Scottie said people were concerned about safety and pass ability, especially in the winter. Peter said upgrading would be save wear and tear on the town trucks and Liz said that while she would not use improved road to commute to work, it would be nice to be able to drive straight through to visit friends. Under V.S.A. 19 §709, the next step would be for the Board to notice a public hearing on the issue no fewer than 30 days.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded holding a public hearing on whether to upgrade the Class 4 portion of McCullough Hill Road at 5 p.m., December 15th in the Town Clerk's Office. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

***** BREAK FOR BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING *****

Steed Property Update

The Board reviewed a proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement in which the town would pay \$40,000 with 2% down at the time of signing toward purchasing 38.9 acres off Notch Road owned by Cynthia Steed in order to expand and improve public access to the Town

Forest. The Board also reviewed a proposed 99-year lease granting Cynthia and her kin exclusive use of one cabin and a rectangle of land around it. This would not impact any trails already in use on her property. Meanwhile, Bill Rossmassler said he is having difficulty getting the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to confirm in writing that the property is not in violation of state waste water laws now that the vagrants have apparently vacated. Peter said it would be nice to have that confirmation before the town acquired the property. This issue aside, the Board approved of the lease and purchase and sale agreement. Bill Rossmassler said he would submit both documents to Cynthia.

Revised Zoning Regulations

As it would be almost impossible to hold the necessary public hearings before Town Meeting on the revised zoning regulations, Cindy said they would most likely be voted on at a special election in May. She would like to get them in place before the summer building season.

Junk at 570 VT Route 12

In response to a neighbor's complaint that trash at 570 VT Route 12 violated the town's junk ordinance, the Board directed Sarah to write a letter informing Bob Bowers, resident, that he was in violation and needed to clean up his yard. Mary and Bill Callnan left the meeting.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded approval of the 10.27.2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

All Orders were signed.

Peter praised the organizers for throwing an excellent annual Harvest Dinner that was held November 7th at Rumney School to raise money for the local food shelf.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant