

Select Board Members  
 Peter Hood, Chair  
 Mary Just Skinner,  
Vice Chair  
 Phil Hyjek  
 Steve Martin  
 Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD  
Tuesday, January 24, 2016  
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, Liz Scharf and Phil Hyjek, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Dorinda Crowell, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Program Manager Dan Currier, Jane Dudley the Middlesex representative to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District, Middlesex Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg and the Budget Committee: Bill Dorigan, Ruth Dockter, Elias Gardner and Barry Bolio. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and welcomed the guests. There were no amendments

**Shady Rill Park**

A January 24th email from VT Agency of Natural Resources Lands Administrator Mike Fraysier was read into the record. Fraysier noted ANR would be open to working with the Wrightsville Beach District on Shady Rill Park but reiterated that no state money would be available to offset town maintenance costs.

The Board agreed that it wanted to keep the park open for various reasons, including to reduce the potential for nighttime parties and unsightly neglect, as well as the general enjoyment the picnic area provides. The question was who should open and close the gate every day and maintain the bathrooms, etc.

Jane said the state approached the beach district 18 months ago re: taking over the park. Wrightsville said it would investigate the proposal though, again, no state money was offered, so that was a deterrent. That said, it makes sense that Wrightsville would maintain the Shady Rill picnic area since the two parks are so close, Jane agreed.

Peter noted that the Shady Rill picnic area is not a Middlesex park; it's a state park used more by people from other towns combined. Therefore, perhaps the Town could ask for contributions from the other beach district towns - Montpelier, East Montpelier and Worcester. He asked how Wrightsville was funded.

Using approximations, Jane said \$12,000 came from municipal contributions, \$9,000 from Washington Electric Coop and \$50,000 from user fees, of which only \$10,000 comes from family passes. Since Wrightsville just raised its per capita fees this year after a long period of level funding, Jane said the district was reluctant to ask for another increase so soon, just to maintain Shady Rill.

Dan noted that the Select Board had allocated \$5,000 in its FY18 budget for Shady Rill maintenance. He and Jane were concerned that this would not be enough, considering that the State spent approximately \$9,000 per year.

There was a brief discussion about charging user fees for Shady Rill, but Lee, the Board, and the Wrightsville representatives agreed that doing so would create additional costs and detract from the park's appeal as a free picnic area near a popular swimming hole.

Peter was worried that if the Town assumed control of Shady Rill this year, all the other towns would back off. Steve stressed that the Town had to take the lead this year so the park could open in the spring.

Dan and Jane said they would bring these issues to the district board when it meets in two weeks. Peter said that if Wrightsville could open and close the gates, then that would eliminate about one third of the picnic area's maintenance.

Peter suggested going forward with the one-year lease from the State, but that since the Town is not in the business of recreation, Wrightsville should eventually assume control, the sooner the better. The Board agreed.

**Future of the Old Fire Station**

A preliminary proposal to deconstruct the Old Fire Station behind Town Hall roughly estimated the cost of the project to be \$25,000 with, perhaps, a few thousand dollars offset by reclamation. However, since then, the Town Highway department has been using the building for storage of its large equipment and Peter suggested that the Town might as well spiff up the fire station and use it for highway storage. He suggested painting one side at a time, starting with the front. The Board agreed.

**Compensation for Dorinda Crowell, the New Treasurer/Collector of Delinquent Taxes & Trustee of Public Funds**  
**MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded paying Dorinda \$29.60 per hour to serve as Treasurer, Collector of Delinquent Taxes and Trustee of Public Funds. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**FY18 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Board reviewed the latest budget which now included all the special articles. Peter suggested noting in the 2016 Town Report that debt, payroll and insurance had been broken out by department. The Board allocated \$400 more to the MVFD's worker's comp line item so it's \$1,800. If the voters approve the MVFD's request for a tanker that could cost upwards of \$120,000, the first payment would not be made until after July – preferably in September – of 2018, so it would not affect the FY18 budget. Cindy urged the Board to keep in mind that it would have three previous payments due in July 2018, so the tanker payment should be postponed until more tax dollars were received.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving a proposed Town Budget of \$1,099,071 for FY18 to be presented to voters at the March 7, 2017 Town Meeting. The budget represents a 2.27% increase over the previous year. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Approving the March 7, 2017 Warning**

The Board reviewed the draft warning. Article 12 was rewritten to note that the amount for purchase of the MVFD refurbished tanker was not to exceed \$120,000. Mary added that the Warning should state that the Select Board may borrow UP to this sum for a period of 10 years. The Board agreed.

At Peter's suggestion, the Board added Articles 9 & 10, extending the terms of Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes from 1 to 3 years effective at the following Town Meeting on March 6, 2018. Mary was opposed to this on the argument that it is more difficult to remove a Treasurer who has mismanaged funds if that term is 3 years. **MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded adding Articles 9 & 10 asking the voters to extend the terms of Treasurer and Collector of Delinquent Taxes from one to three years. Peter, Steve, Phil and Liz voted aye; Mary voted nay.**

**MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded approval of the March 7, 2017 Town Meeting Warning. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**SELECT BOARD REPORT**

Peter amended the report to include clarification of the prospective purchase of the 10-wheel dump truck for the town. Other items were removed.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approval of the 2106 Select Board Report. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving Assistant Town Clerk Maryke Gillis as the Town's E911 Coordinator to replace Cindy Carlson who was retiring from the position. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approval of the January 10, 2017 Select Board meeting minutes. The motion passed with all in favor.**

All orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

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