

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Members Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf and Treasurer Cindy Carlson. Also, Chair Peter Hood and member Bill Callnan by speakerphone. Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant. Vice chair Mary Just Skinner arrived at 5:23 p.m.

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda.

One-Time Discretionary Payment to Road Crew from FY16

In a follow up to the June 26, 2016, meeting the Board voted on whether to pay three employees of the Highway Department a one-time discretionary sum in light of the lack of winter overtime that resulted in a substantial savings to the Town.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded paying \$1,000, each, to Bruce Fitch, Jay Files, and Road Foreman Paul Cerninara. The motion passed with a unanimous roll-call vote. Mary and Peter were not yet present.

Presentation of the Draft Zoning Regulations

The Board accepted the latest draft of the proposed Zoning Regulations from the Planning Commission and scheduled a public hearing on September 13, 2016, at 6 p.m. to receive input.

OTHER BUSINESS

All Orders were signed

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the June 26, 2016 Select Board Minutes. (Mary and Peter were not yet present.) **The motion passed.**

Peter joined the meeting.

Times-Argus Stays as Newspaper of Record

In light of an announcement by the Times-Argus that it was reducing its paper publishing schedule to four days per week, the Board considered an opinion from VLCT how that affected 1 VSA §174 mandating the public notice of certain meetings and elections. Peter said the only alternative was the Free Press which few read in Middlesex. VLCT lawyer Sarah Jarvis wrote that towns could stick with the Times-Argus and its sister newspaper, *The Rutland Herald*, if they took the online days into account. Therefore, the Board decided to keep the Times-Argus as its newspaper of record.

Setting the Town's Tax Rate on the 2016 Bills

The Board reviewed Cindy's spreadsheet that calculated a Town Tax Rate of .4501 (before the Local Agreement) to meet the Town's expenses. Bill noted this was merely a penny increase over the 2015 Town tax rate of .4377 and accurately reflected a \$30,000 increase in spending, though, as he noted, the modest increase in both the budget and the Town tax rate indicated that spending was under control. The lion's share of the bill would be education: a 1.8113 rate for homestead filers/1.6250 for non-residential. There was some discussion about whether to apply the \$19,000 surplus from the previous year to offset expenses.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded setting the Town Tax Rate on the 2016 bills at \$0.4501 before the Local Agreement. The motion passed.

Mary joined the meeting.

Newly appointed Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki informally met with the Board and updated them on his plans for the park in Welch Park, the fields around Rumney School and the future Shady Rill picnic area.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant