

**Select Board Members**

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2016**  
**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, Phil Hyjek and (by speakerphone) Liz Scharf. Treasurer Cindy Carlson. Budget Committee: George Longenecker, Bill Dorigan, Ruth Dockter and Elias Gardner. Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg. Michael Levine and 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. The agenda was amended to include Green Mountain power pole replacement on Norton Road and signing a previously approved \$17,500 Merchants Bank note.

**Proposed Revised Land Use Regulations**

The Board reviewed recommendations from its second public hearing on October 25, 2016, re: revised Land Use Regulations, specifically whether the Town Plan prohibited retail, restaurants and gas stations in the Industrial Use District since portions of that district possibly overlapped the Exit 9 Interchange, where development is restricted. Liz and Phil said they were trying to determine whether the proposed zoning for that area was in direct conflict with the Town Plan which is geared toward driving commerce to the village area instead of just around the interchange. Peter noted that neither the Town Plan, nor the Exit 9 plan to which it refers, clearly identifies the perimeters of the Exit 9 interchange area.

Peter asked Cindy, who is also the Zoning Administrator, and Steve, who is also on the Planning Commission, for the Commission's reasoning behind adding these uses to the district. Steve said the changes evolved over the two years the commission worked on the regulations. Cindy noted that there is such limited space for these uses in the village district that it seemed natural to add them to the industrial district.

Mary said that if the Board doesn't remove these uses, then it should at least impose size limitations on the retail and restaurants. Michael said the basic problem is that the Town Plan should have been revised before or during the rewriting of the zoning regulations, not afterward.

The Board agreed to table the issue and invite the PC Chair, John Krezinski, to meet with the Board at its next meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **FY18 Budget Workshop: Highway**

Paul presented the Highway Department's budget for next fiscal year that was actually down .7% from the current year, even though the \$504,721 proposal includes a request for a 2% cost of living increase for the Road Crew and more resources directed at adding to the Bridge Fund and replacing culverts.

That's because, after completing two major projects on Shady Rill Road, the Road Crew hopes to perform general maintenance around town in FY18, concentrating on McCullough Hill, Portal, East Hill and Center roads.

FY18 is also the year when the Town planned to trade in the troublesome 2010 International truck and purchase a new one. The cost would be approximately \$200,000 to \$215,000 to buy new, while the trade would yield at least \$40,000. If the Board decides not to purchase a new truck, then it will have to budget more money for repairs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board reviewed the results from the CVRPC study monitoring volume, speed and type of vehicles using Brook, Center and Shady Rill roads. The data will be used to consider speed control efforts and, if necessary, future highway ordinances.

The Board considered Green Mountain Power's petitioned request to reset power lines to facilitate access for maintenance on Norton Road. **MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded granting GMP permission to move the poles.** The motion passed unanimously and the petition was signed.

The Board reviewed an informal proposal from Deconstruction Works to demolish, remove, and recycle the Old Fire Station behind Town Hall for \$17,500. Steve said he was in favor of deconstruction. Peter suggested factoring this in to the 2018 budget requests.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving a \$17,500 one-year note from Merchant's Bank that covered the costs of purchasing and repairing a 1995 Middlesex fire truck.** The motion passed with the full Board's approval except for Mary. Steve, Peter and Phil signed the note along with Cindy and Sarah as Town Clerk.

Lee updated the Board about Hunger Mountain Headwaters - land around the Hunger Mountain trail that might be eligible for state acquisition through federal funds. He said local public hearings scheduled for this month had been postponed until next year due, in part, to changes in the Presidential administration.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approving the October 25, 2016 Select Board minutes.** The motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Board reviewed an email from Rick Hopkins of the VT Trails & Greenways Council asking to meet with the Board to request a one-time article on the 2017 Town Meeting Warning for \$1,731 (\$1/Middlesex resident) that would be applied toward construction of a 200-foot-long bridge over the Winooski River in East

Montpelier. The Board stood by its policy that all special article requests over \$250 be submitted via petition of 5% of the registered voters in town or 80.

The Board reviewed an updated proposal from VTEC for a tanker the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department wants to purchase. The new price is \$6,300 lower than previously estimated and is now \$117,274.

Also, the Board reviewed an email from MFVD President Jeff Koonz about how other towns deal with zoning applications that include long and narrow driveways that are difficult for fire trucks to negotiate.

The Board agreed to combine its two meetings in December to one long meeting on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 5 p.m.

All orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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