

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, December 13, 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. Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Budget Committee: George Longenecker, Bill Dorigan and Barry Bolio. Dorinda Crowell. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

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

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and welcomed the guests.

**Revised Zoning Regulations**

The Board adopted the Planning Commission's suggestion that the 2011 permitted and conditional uses in Article 2 of the proposed, revised land use regulations remain to avoid potential conflicts with the current town plan. The rest of the revisions will stay because they clarify confusing language and address changes in state regulations. A hearing on the latest draft was set for 6 p.m., January 10, 2017.

**New 10-Wheel Truck/Single-House Roads/Road Foreman Update**

Paul solicited quotes for budgeting the potential purchase of a new town truck to replace the 2010 International. The cost was approximately \$194,000, equipped. If the purchase is approved at Town Meeting, he hopes to send out for bids in March with a delivery date around September. If the Board decides not to add the purchase of a new truck to the FY18 budget, Paul asked that the Board increase the maintenance line item. The Board discussed the value of a maintenance plan since repairs on the current truck had been so costly. If the Town traded in the truck for a new one this year, there would still be an outstanding note of \$10,000 to pay off on the old truck.

Paul also gave the Board a heads up about the importance of downgrading to trails four, single-home roads – Warren, Bolio, Merritt and the end of Chase - largely in response to Act 69, which will require towns to engineer water runoff plans for each town road. The Board noted this had been a Select Board goal for 2016.

**FY18 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Health insurance costs for full-time Town employees will rise by 7% in 2017. Peter suggested holding off on changes to the plans in light of a new federal administration which may dismantle the Affordable Care Act. In addition, if the Town decides to take control of Shady Rill Park, that might add another \$5,000 to the budget. There are also some unknowns such as compensation for a new Zoning Administrator since Cindy Carlson, the current ZA, has indicated she is resigning. Bill suggested allocating more money to the highway fuel budget since the price might be rising, though Steve said the Highway Department already took that into account. The Board looked for ways to save money, perhaps reducing the Conservation Commission's request to its original \$500. That brought the budget increase to 2.4%.

**2017 Town Warning: Tax Payment Date Changes**

Cindy suggested putting an item on the 2017 Town Warning asking the Town voters to change the two tax payment installment dates from September 15 and February 15 to September 25 and February 25 so that the Town could adjust taxes for September 15 state payments. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

**Cindy Carlson Resigns from All Positions**

Cindy provided formal notification that she was stepping down from her elected and non-elected positions - Treasurer, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Trustee of Public Funds and Zoning Administrator – effective January 31, 2017.

**MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded accepting Cindy's resignation. The motion passed.**

Dorinda, a former Select Board member, attended the meeting to see if she might be interested in serving as interim Treasurer and, perhaps, running for Cindy's financial positions in 2017. She asked about number of hours required, the bookkeeping structure, and the pay. She said the job was a big responsibility. Cindy noted she was paid \$29.62/hour and that the Board should consider paying Dorinda the same. The Board took no action since the item had not been warned.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded approving the November 29, 2016 Select Board minutes.** The motion passed.

The Board passed over the Shady Rill park agreement due to the late hour.

Correspondence: The Board discussed a request from National School Choice Week asking the Select Board to officially declare January 22-28, 2017, as Town of Middlesex School Choice week. **MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded rejecting the request.** The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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