

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, June 27 2017
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair, Members Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin, Liz Scharf and Chair Peter Hood by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. John Rahill and Charlie Merriman. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman

Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments

Mary called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. There were no additional amendments to the amended agenda.

Executive Session

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded entering Executive Session at 5:01 p.m. to discuss personnel matters as permitted under 1 VSA§312(a). The motion passed.

MOTION: Peter moved and Phil seconded exiting Executive Session. The motion passed and the Board resumed its public meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Town Policy for the Collection of Current and Delinquent Taxes

The Board reviewed the tax collection policy that Dorinda introduced at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the Town Policy for the Collection of Current and Delinquent Taxes. The motion passed and present Board members signed the policy.

Granting the Town Treasurer Authority to Waive Small Interest Amounts

At the June 13 Board meeting, Dorinda asked for permission to waive small amounts of interest that accrued when late taxpayers made payments before receiving the latest notice of interest charges.

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded allowing the Town Treasurer to waive small interest charges that accrued due to notice mailings. The motion passed.

2017 Annual Financial Management Questionnaire

The Board reviewed the VT State Auditor's annual questionnaire of how town finances are handled.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded the 2017 Annual Financial Management Questionnaire completed by Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. The motion passed.

In addition, the Board referred to the Town Auditor a question about how to clear the Town's contribution portion of the Shady Rill (Box Culvert) grant from FY16.

Prospective Community Capital Grant

Peter polled the Board on whether it would be interested in making Middlesex the municipal sponsor of a Community Capital Grant that could distribute approximately \$400,000 to Vermont businesses. The Town had assumed a similar responsibility in 2003, during which four grants were distributed to Middlesex businesses. There would be no cost to the Town and there would be a small payment to cover managerial expenses. The Board agreed it was generally positive about the prospect, but wanted more details before making a definitive decision.

Updating the Town Drug & Alcohol Policy for CDL Drivers

The Board reviewed three changes to Section 6: Consequences of a Positive Test in the 2016 Drug & Alcohol Policy for CDL Drivers. The changes included the following: adding “or by the employee” to a stipulation that counseling be paid for by the employee’s health insurance; allowing drivers who have failed drug tests to return to work to perform duties that do not require operating a CMV and that are not safety sensitive; and that payment for Return To Duty Testing and follow-up testing will be at the discretion of the Select Board which will decide if the Town or the affected employee will assume those costs.

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded amending Section 6 of the Town Drug & Alcohol Policy for CDL Drivers. The motion passed.

Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Letter of Intent

Vermont’s Regional Planning Commission and the Department of Environmental Conservation will help Middlesex implement best management practices on municipal roads in preparation of the DEC’s required Municipal Roads General Permit. The DEC will reimburse 80% of Middlesex’ constructions expenses and provide in-kind support in upgrading roads that connect to water sources – a total of \$7,500. The Board reviewed the criteria and agreed to send a letter of intent to participate in this pilot program.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded sending the Letter of Intent. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lauren Heyl’s Dogs

The Board reviewed a June 16, 2017, email from Charles Evans which states Lauren Heyl had already violated the stipulations of a June 13 agreement with the Select Board that she not allow her dogs be off leash until they are trained on an electric fence. In addition, neighbor John Rahill, via speakerphone, said the dogs continue to bark incessantly, especially at night. And he has seen them loose on Wood Road, another violation of the agreement. Peter said Lauren was not living up to her end of the bargain and, therefore, is at risk of losing her dogs permanently. The Board decided that, with approval of Animal Control Officer Erika Holm, Sarah should write a letter informing Lauren that she has violated the June 13th agreement and also has committed the 3rd violation of the Town’s Dog & Wolf Hybrid Ordinance, the penalty for which is

immediate seizure of her dogs. Lauren will have 21 days to appeal to the Select Board, after which her dogs will be seized.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded approval of the June 13, 2017 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

The Board discussed requirements by the E-9-1-1 Board that all "PR" roads be given proper names. Liz suggested that E-9-1-1 Coordinator Maryke Gillis suggest names to the residents each of these PRs, but that it's up to the residents of each road to decide on a name that must then be approved by the Select Board. Since the E-9-1-1 regulations require this change, the Town will pay for the new signs.

Dorinda said the interest rate on the new truck will be 2.75%. However, she was informed by Community National Bank that the debt on the truck could not be for 7 years. It had to be for 5 years or fewer. The Board asked Dorinda to research whether this was by state statute or bank rule and to investigate the rates on a 1-year note.

The Board approved paying for L. Brown Printing to fold, stuff and meter 2017 tax bills and gave Dorinda authority, as Treasurer, to cut a check for postage on mailing the 2017 Grand List booklet on or before July 10th.

All Orders were signed.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.