

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, August 15, 2017
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Members Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin and Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Appraiser Rich Lewis, MCC member Dave Shepard and Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were no additional amendments to the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded entering Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and to include Rich Lewis. The motion passed and the Board entered Executive Session at 5:01 p.m.

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded exiting Executive Session. The motion passed and the Board exited Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

Town-Wide Reappraisal Assessment

Rich apprised the Board of the town-wide reappraisal that finished in July and noted that, so far, only four property owners were appealing their valuations to the Board of Civil Authority.

The Board discussed Lister Eric Young's letter recommending that the Select Board fund a professional assessor who would conduct annual property appraisals, update the Grand List and execute the necessary NEMRC reports to the State of Vermont. Eric's letter noted that the responsibilities of Listers have increased dramatically over the years and that the job was impossible to do well at the current rate of \$15/hour for just a few hours per week. Hiring an assessor might entice more people to run for Lister.

Rich noted that the Town actually spent more money on Listers in 2004 than it did last year. Peter said one solution might be for the Listers to hire an assessor next year who would report to the Board of Listers. That would not require a vote at Town Meeting. However, down the line, the Select Board might consider asking Town voters if they wanted to eliminate the elected Board of Listers altogether and authorize the Select Board to hire an assessor who would report to them. Phil said this is an issue the Board should keep on the front burner for future meetings

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approving Eric's letter and entering it into the record. The motion passed.

Mowing the Three Mile Bridge Road Park

(The Board skipped to this on the agenda to accommodate guests.) Dorinda noted that Corey Michaud's bills for mowing and removing invasive weeds on the small park on Three Mile Bridge Road had been deducted from the Middlesex Conservation Committee, thereby nearly wiping out its annual budget. This was because the MCC has an easement on the park and has been tasked with its maintenance. However, Dave said the MCC was never consulted about this expense during the bidding process for Town mowing. Moreover, in the past, this maintenance has been performed by MCC volunteers. Peter said that, as far as he was concerned, the park fell under the Town's responsibility and, therefore, the Town would pay for mowing. Mitch said that in the future he will discuss with the MCC the appropriate level of maintenance they'd like to see there.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded that the Town should pay for the mowing and weed removal at the Three Mile Bridge Road park. The motion passed.

Recreation Department Update

Mitch said he had the toilets removed from the old recreation shed and was converting into a more usable facility. Meanwhile, portable toilets had been installed near the tennis courts and would be kept in place until mid-October until soccer season ends. Mitch also asked the Board what it would like to do with the old lawn tractor which has a good engine, but may need some repairs on the transmission. Peter suggested keeping it for a year and getting some use out of it. Also, Mitch said Nicom's proposal to fix the tennis courts was expensive and the material they used was gooey. He wanted to do more research before settling on a solution. Steve said the cracks should be sealed before winter. The Board agreed that Mitch has done a wonderful job improving the Town recreation area.

Approving a New Workstation from RB Technologies

The Board reviewed an updated proposal submitted by RB Technologies at the Board's request to include a new workstation when RB upgrades the Town's computer equipment this fall. This would save \$500 and avoid having to upgrade an old workstation and then upgrade a new one six months later.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded paying \$1,669.00 to RB Technologies for a new workstation. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the August 2, 2017 minutes from the Select Board Special Meeting. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

Mary asked for an update on Lauren Heyl's dogs. Sarah said that neither Charles Evans nor Paul Dayton had a problem with the dogs now that she had given two up for adoption. Still, the Board said it would like to hear from ACO Erika Holm before closing the case permanently.

Dorinda said she expected to put at least four properties up for sale soon due to unpaid taxes going back as far as 2015 and even 2014. The properties are owned by Jonathan Spencer, Dennis Nolan, Christopher King and Gillian Fuqua equaling approximately \$50,000 in uncollected tax revenue.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant