

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, January 23, 2018
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Members Steve Martin, Liz Scharf and Phil Hyjek and Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. MCC Chair Lee Rosberg. Celest DiPietropaolo, Marie Dicocco and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The agenda was amended to postpone discussion about purchasing a new Ford 550 for the Highway Department and updating zoning fees until the February 13, 2018 meeting.

Plowing on Lower Barnet Hill Road

After complaining to the Board at its prior meeting that the Highway Department's plow truck was stopping at least 30 feet short of the top end of Lower Barnet Hill Road where he lives, Celest asked the Board five questions: 1) Why should he and his wife have to pay a private plowman to sand those remaining feet? 2) If the Town is having trouble maintaining Town trucks, including MVFD trucks, what does that mean for citizens' safety? 3) If someone has an accident on those 30 or so feet that their private plowman has sanded, who is liable? 4) If Lower Barnet Hill is the most difficult road to plow and sand, why is it not a higher priority? and 5) Why has road maintenance degraded in the last 2 years?

Peter addressed the questions from last to first. As he noted at the January 9th Board meeting, the Town's problematic one-ton truck, the only truck that can plow and sand a road with the elevation of Lower Barnet Hill, has been in and out of the shop for the past two years. The Town plans to replace the truck next year.

As far as fire truck maintenance, Middlesex residents are covered. The Town is part of Capital City Mutual Aid which means nearby municipalities – such as Montpelier with its full-time, paid fire department – will respond to Middlesex calls as well. As for when Lower Barnet is plowed and sanded, Peter noted that because it's not part of a school bus route, it does not take top priority.

Celest wanted to know if the Town would reimburse him for paying a private plow to maintain that upper part of the road. He showed Peter a bill for \$15 from Bob Grandfield to do just that. Peter said the Town was not going to set that precedent.

However, Steve, who is also the Road Commissioner, said the matter can be resolved by the Town – not a homeowner – hiring a private contractor, if necessary, to maintain certain roads when trucks are disabled. Liz said she supported that. But Steve noted that the plows have their own schedules so Celest's road might not be plowed and sanded as quickly as he would like.

The Board discussed whether it would need a motion approving the use of private plows to fill in when Town trucks were down. Phil said it came under the purview of the Road Commissioner. The Board agreed and noted the minutes should reflect that, in the occasional instances when a truck breaks down, the Road Commissioner has the authority to hire a contractor.

Celest said he was happy with that agreement. He and Marie then left the meeting.

Approving a Letter of Support for the Winooski Natural Resources Grant App

Lee encouraged the Board to send a letter of support for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District's application for an Ecosystem Restoration Grant to fund a feasibility study and partial design of a storm-water mitigation project near Rumney School. He distributed a letter from the MCC endorsing the project. Peter asked if there hadn't already been such a project when the "rain garden" was installed during the school's expansion. Lee said that was the purpose of the rain garden; unfortunately, water is still shooting through two culverts under Shady Rill and down the bank to Martin's Creek. Not only is the water eroding the hillside, but it is likely dumping phosphorus and other contaminants into the stream. Mary asked if the Town could do some of the excavation, if that's what the feasibility study requires. Lee said that was highly likely. Peter said he felt like the Town was back to where it was before. Steve asked to be kept in the loop so he could understand the project's requirements in case the Highway Department was called upon to do some of the excavation.

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the MCC's letter of support and writing a Select Board letter of support for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District's application for an Ecosystem Restoration Grant to study storm-water mitigation near Rumney School. The motion passed. The Board agreed to let Peter sign the letter on the Board's behalf.

Approval of the 2018 Town Meeting Warning

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approval of the 2018 Town Meeting Warning. The motion passed and the Board members present signed the Warning.

Approval of the 2017 Select Board Report and 2018-19 Budget Analysis

The Board reviewed a draft of the Select Board report and Budget Analysis that Phil added and suggested rewording certain sections in both.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approving the 2017 Select Board Report and 2018-19 Budget Analysis as amended. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the January 9, 2018, Select Board meeting minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

All Orders were signed.

Liz requested a review of the Town's response to flooding on Three Mile Bridge Road on Saturday, January 13th. While the MVFD, the Town and Montpelier alerted and helped evacuate residents from that street, Sarah said Jennifer Evans, who lives at the end of Rich Road, was upset that no one had knocked on her door to alert her of rising water. Her house was okay, though her basement was flooded. It appears Jennifer may qualify for a FEMA buyout, according to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission which has offered to help with the application process if Jennifer agrees.

Phil updated the Board about a meeting he had with Rubin Bennet of RB Technologies which Dorinda and Peter also attended. He said RB was putting together a proposal to supply the Town with ongoing maintenance for about \$5,160 per year, along with adding Town-specific Microsoft 365 mailboxes for each employee, elected and appointed official so Middlesex complies with the state's open records laws.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM

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

ABOVE MINUTES APPROVED FEBRUARY 13, 2018

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF

PHILIP HYJEK

DRAFT