

<b>Select Board Members</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Martin
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Scharf

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2018**  
**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 Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, WCSU Superintendent Bill Kimball, Rumney School Board Chair Chris McVeigh, Sandy Levine, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order, Amendments, Guests**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Peter welcomed Bill. The Board decided to address the Cemetery Commission agenda item to give Chris time to arrive.

**Cemetery Commission Finances**

Sarah told the Board the Middlesex Cemetery Commission was not going to appear at this meeting because if more than one member showed, it would be a violation of the state's open meetings law unless the a MCC meeting was separately warned as well. The Board discussed who is ultimately responsible for administering the MCC's funds. Dorinda referred to 18 V.S.A. § 5384 which says "all monies received by a town in trust for cemetery purposes must be paid over to the town treasurer, unless directed by the donor, to be invested and reinvested." Mary asked if there was a will that referred to a bequest to the MCC that would outline such directions. Peter said the Board needed to do more research on the history behind the Town's acquisition of the North Branch Cemetery in 2006, stipulations on bequests (if any), and laws concerning those duties.

**School Buses and Winter Road Conditions**

Though Chris had not yet arrived, Peter explained that the Board had requested a member of the Rumney School Board come to the meeting to address concerns about buses slipping off the road during hazardous winter conditions recently. Peter said he was interested to know why buses used "dropped down" chains instead of the old-fashioned chains that had to be manually installed, but that provided more traction. Bill said the district recently contracted with a new bus company which is part of a national enterprise that uses neither snow tires – because they would be prohibitively expensive – or traditional chains – which would have to be installed by AFL-CIO mechanics. He ran through the process involved in calling a snow day which involves consulting with local road crews and local weather forecaster Roger Hill. However, March 14<sup>th</sup> caught him by surprise because instead of 2" of snow falling, as predicted for that afternoon, nearly a foot fell. He also said there was inadequate communication which led to further confusion.

Liz noted that the WCSU school district is consistently the last district to call off school and sometimes one of the few districts to keep schools open during bad winter weather. She urged Bill to lean more toward calling snow days instead of putting kids at risk, even if this means they're in class until July. Either that or consider eliminating the April vacation. Bill said that was impossible because, by state statute, the school calendar must correspond with Barre Tech's schedule. He said, district-wide, the most troublesome issues have been in Middlesex, on Culver Hill, Molly Supple and certain sections of Center Road. Peter and Liz suggested that, in the future, Bill should cancel school based on conditions in the most vulnerable areas. Bill agreed to take these suggestions under advisement. He left the meeting and Chris arrived.

Chris said he wanted Road Foreman Paul Cerminara to be the point person for communication during winter events because there's no point person now. On March 14, for example, the phone lines were jammed with parents calling the school for information. Peter suggested the buses, school and road crew communicate through the radio system. Chris said the bus company stated the buses ran on all-season tires; Liz disputed that and said the tires were smooth. If you can't put on real chains or snow tires because of cost, then the only alternative was to cancel school, Liz said. Chris agreed and left the meeting.

**Outlining Process to Downgrade Five Town Roads**

The Board discussed the process for downgrading from Class 3 to Class 4 Knapp, Bolio, Warren, Merritt roads and the end portion of Chase Road based on the procedure outlined in 19 V.S.A. §708-711. In all these cases, the roads dead end in private property and are, essentially, private driveways. They tend to be narrow and difficult for snow plows to maneuver. Peter encouraged Board members to personally inspect them. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. at its May 22, 2018 Select Board hearing and that residents living on these roads be notified of the hearing by certified mail.

**Planning Commission Vacancy and Candidates**

The Board reviewed letters from former PC members Dick Alderman and Sandy Levine requesting appointments to the one vacancy left on the PC because no one person won enough write-in votes at the March 6, 2018, Town Meeting to be elected. Steve and Sarah noted that five additional people have expressed interest in joining the PC according to their responses on a town-wide survey regarding the Town Plan. In light of that, Peter suggested extending the application deadline and said they should be notified that they should submit letters of interest to the Town Clerk by April 10.

Meanwhile, Sandy said she wanted to address the Board because she had submitted her letter of interest and was not sure she could make the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. She said she appreciated serving on the PC in the past, that she brought institutional background and knowledge and, as a lawyer, experience in municipal law and land use. She urged the need for a solid public process and communication so people in Town know exactly what changes to the Town Plan mean. The Board thanked her for her presentation and apologized for any inconvenience the deadline extension may have caused. Sandy left.

**Designating an Alternate Middlesex Representative to the Central Vermont Internet**

The Board passed over this until April 10.

**Approving rbTechnologies's Maintenance Plan**

The Board reviewed rbTechnologies's proposal to provide maintenance on the Town's server and PCs and upgrade antivirus programs for a total for \$601 per month for all the Town's computers including two hours of discounted consultation for computer problems. The Board agreed that \$130/hour was not much of a discount compared to the RB's usual rate of \$135/hour.

**MOTION:** Mary moved and Liz seconded approving RB's maintenance contract absent the two hours of monthly general service thereby bringing the total monthly costs to \$341/month. The motion passed.

[Type here]

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the March 13, 2018, Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Corrina Parnapy, district manager of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, notifying the Town that a \$10,420 a grant for the Shady Rill Road Stormwater Project had been approved.

Liz said two candidates in the recent school board race were disappointed that the Town Clerk had not called them to give them the election results and asked if a notification process should be implemented. Sarah said she read off the results at 7:05 p.m. in Rumney School gym immediately after Town Meeting and would have posted them online had the Town website not been down. Liz suggested asking candidates for contact numbers on election night when they file their petitions so they are notified personally.

Returning to the discussion about buses, Steve, who is also Road Commissioner, said he wanted the Town trucks to continue pulling buses out of ditches instead of waiting for other services. Otherwise, the roads remain blocked and children would have to wait. He said Paul Cerminara should use his discretion.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

ABOVE MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 10, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN MARTIN

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH SCHARF

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHILIP HYJEK

