

Select Board Members

Peter Hood, Chair
 X_Mary Just
Skinner,
Vice Chair
 Phil Hyjek
 Steve Martin
 X_Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, May 8, 2018
4:30 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Peter Hood, Members Phil Hyjek, Liz Scharf and Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order, Amendments, Guests

Peter called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Adopting middlesexvt.gov on Town Email Extensions

Phil said he is in the process of applying for middlesexvt.gov to be the extension on all Town-related emails to enhance security and transparency. However, the process involves multiple steps and will take a while. The Board agreed this was the right direction.

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded adopting and registering middlesexvt.gov on all Town-related email accounts. The motion passed.

Waiving the 8% Penalty on Late HS-122 Filers

(Mary entered the meeting.) The Board reviewed its annual decision to waive the 8% penalty towns may impose on taxpayers who file their HS-122 forms (Homestead Declarations) after the April 15 due date. Liz said she was in favor of waiving since most taxpayers file late because they've made an innocent mistake or they received an income tax extension and file after April 15. Dorinda noted non-filers who are residents do not come to the attention of the Town and the 8% penalty is not applied to them, since they are separately penalized by the State.

Peter asked why the homestead education tax rate was higher than the non-residential education tax rate for Middlesex. Phil said he would make a few calls and try to investigate.

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded waiving the 8% penalty on taxpayers who file their HS-122s late. The motion passed.

Proceeding with 19 V.S.A. §708-711, to Discontinue or Downgrade 5 Town Roads

The Board reviewed a revised public notice for site visits and a public hearing regarding five Town roads that may be discontinued or downgraded from Class 3 to Class 4. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board agreed to move the site visits and public hearing from June 12th to June 26, 2018.

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded beginning the process as outlined in Title 19 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 7, amended, by publicly warning site visits to five Town roads the Board, on its own motion, is considering downgrading from Class 3 to Class 4.

Alternatively, the Board may decide after the June 26, 2018, site visits and subsequent public hearing to discontinue all or sections of the following roads: Bolio, Warren, Merritt, part of Chase and part of Knapp. The motion passed. The public notice was signed. Abutting landowners and the Middlesex Planning Commission will be notified by certified and regular mail and the notice will be posted at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Rumney School, on the Town's website, and in the Times-Argus as required in 19 V.S.A. §709.

Treasurer's Report: North Branch Edward Jones Fund/Welch Park

Dorinda informed the Board that the new signatories on the Edward Jones North Branch Cemetery account were her and Assistant Treasurer Helen Weed. The previous signatories, i.e. members of the Middlesex Cemetery Commission, had been removed.

The Board reviewed an insurance agreement for Welch Park with Noyle Johnson Insurance. Peter signed the agreement on behalf of Welch Park. The Board agreed to pay the full bill and then bill the individual Welch Park entities separately based on their prorations.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded approving the April 24, 2018, Select Board minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

All orders were signed.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Board discussed a May 8th email from Road Foreman Paul Cerminara about the Highway Department's underground, 3,000-gallon diesel fuel storage tank. Upon regular inspection, Paul determined the inner lining of the double-wall tank had failed. Fortunately, the outer wall was still intact so no fuel had leaked out to the soil. However, the tank will need to be replaced at a cost of roughly \$12,000 for a 2,000-gallon, above-ground tank and more than \$20,000 for a 4,000-gallon tank. Peter noted the Board still had some time to make a decision since it would take awhile for the tank to run dry. However, he recommended an above-ground tank and was grateful the Town had decided to go with a two-walled tank, even though it was more expensive at the time. Liz suggested going with the smaller tank; Phil wondered if there were cost savings associated with the different capacities.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Corey Michaud, who currently is contracted to mow Town properties. He was the only contractor to submit a bid to the Town Recreation Director and his prices were the same as last year.

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded approving C. Michaud Landscape and Lawn Care's contract to mow Town properties as follows: the Town recreation field and bandstand on Shady Rill Road for \$100 per mowing, brush hogging the perimeter of the recreation field for \$100/hour, weekly mowing in the summer of Walt Kelley park for \$30/cut and then \$60/cut once the whole area has grown in, and weekly mowing of Town Hall for \$35/cut. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed a quote from The Barn Doctor to repaint the roof of the old fire station behind Town Hall for \$2,520 and a revised proposal from Dick Picard to do the same for \$2,081. Peter said he preferred Dick's proposal because he used brushes, could address the roof immediately (since The Barn Doctor said he wouldn't be able to handle the project until August) and because Dick was a Town resident and taxpayer.

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded awarding Dick Picard of PG Painting and Staining to repaint the roof of the old fire station for \$2,081 and authorized a check in the amount of \$1,040.50 to be cut and paid to him immediately as down payment.

Liz asked to attend the VLCT Economic Development Forum on June 14th. The Board agreed it was a good idea.

Sarah told the Board a Hazardous Mitigation Grant application was submitted on May 3, 2018, to FEMA for a buyout of 28 Rich Road which is frequently flooded and unsafe.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

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

ABOVE MINUTES APPROVED MAY 22, 2018

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF

PHILIP HYJEK