

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, June 18, 2019
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Members Liz Scharf and Steve Martin and Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Mike Rouell. Sue Bettmann recording for ORCA and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. There were no amendments.

MVFD Update

Per Mary's request to find the MVFD articles of incorporation, Sarah said the Corporations Division of the Secretary of State's Office is retrieving those from its archives since neither the Town nor the MVFD has copies from when the fire department was incorporated in 1962. Peter said, regardless, the real question is whether the Select Board has any authority over a separate entity that uses Town buildings and equipment and is covered by the Town's insurance. VLCT has not returned inquiries on the matter.

Setting 2019 Select Board Goals

The Board agreed on the following goals for 2019:

- More engagement with the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department
- Discontinuing Colby Road per the Select Board's guidelines of 2018 to throw up or downgrade any road that ran through only one parcel and served only one house.
- Considering whether to renovate or construct a new Town Hall and/or Highway Department facility. Peter noted that the Highway Department structure off Shady Rill Road was to last no more than 20 years. It's now going on more than 40. Mary said the Town should have a 5-year capital plan for buildings as well as highway equipment.
- Address all computer issues including upgrades and establishing government emails for every Middlesex public official
- Determining whether or in what extent the Town should be part of the Welch Park Association.

Looking ahead, the Board agreed to have an early involvement in rewriting the Town zoning regulations should the Town Plan pass a town-wide vote in September.

Treasurer's Report – 2019 Annual Financial Report

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded receiving the 2019 Annual Financial Report compiled and signed by Dorinda. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed the end-of-year financials which showed the Town had overspent its FY2019 budget by \$33,454 so far. Mary asked how much that could increase by June 30; Dorinda said that number could be doubled. Liz stressed, again, that the Town needs to budget for dealing with the effects of natural disasters such as heavy snows and/or spring flooding which have required Highway Department overtime. This kind of weather is going to become the norm, not the exception. Dorinda said much of the overspending was due to \$43,000 on emergency repairs on highway equipment.

Dorinda said she needs to advertise for a bookkeeper to replace Patti Lewis who is planning on scaling down her duties and retiring by the end of the year. Mike Rouelle left the meeting.

Welch Park Update

Peter updated the Board about the June 13th Welch Park Association meeting in which it was clarified that the Town does not now, nor never has had, permitted access to the community well. Peter stressed that the Town should retain rights to the community fire pond and leach field, but, otherwise, should not be paying for 15% of repairs on that well. In addition, the Town should not have the responsibility of administering payments for the Association. Liz asked who plowed the road; the Town does. Peter said he would follow up with Welch Park President Carl Bailin about restructuring the Association as far as the community well and accounting process goes.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded approving the June 4, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded approving the 2019-2020 Washington County Sheriff's contract with the Town to provide speeding enforcement. The Board agreed that, per the \$7,500 budget approved by the voters at the March 2019 Town Meeting, the Sheriff's department should provide speeding enforcement for 5 hours a week. Dorinda said the Sheriffs have spent only half their budget from last year because the sheriff's staff is stretched. The Board discussed other ways to provide more enforcement.

All orders were approved and signed.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded nominating resident Alisa Darmstadt to serve as the Washington County Public Sector Representative to Capstone. Mary asked why the Board hasn't made that appointment in the past; Liz said because Alisa is the first Washington County representative from Middlesex. The motion passed and the Board directed Sarah to write a letter to Capstone.

The Board reviewed correspondence from VT AOT re: speeding on VT Route 12. Liz said she was glad the State plans to install highly reflective signs for Culver Hill Road and warning of an upcoming intersection. The Board also reviewed Kim Bolduc's email regarding her discussion as a member of the Vermont State Police Community Action Board about speeding on that road and agreed to invite a State Police representative to discuss possible solutions to speeding in Putnamville and elsewhere in Middlesex.

The Board approved scheduling a Special Select Board meeting for 7 PM, June 25th to receive the 2019 Town Plan from the Planning Commission.

The Board reviewed recommendations from Jen Woodward of VLCT to deny property damage claims from Oliver Weis, who sought compensation for repairs on his car due to a pot hole on Shady Rill Road, and Eric Kemp, whose Wood Road driveway was damaged in the May 19 rains. The Board approved VLCT's recommendations.

Peter inquired about improved signage on Center Road; Steve said the signs have been ordered and should be arriving in the beginning of July.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM.

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON JULY 2, 2019.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

N/A
PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF