

[Type here]

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
4:30 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

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

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. The Board addressed end-of-year financials, first.

Treasurer's Report – FY2019 Annual Financials

Unanticipated expenses largely due to two storms that required extensive emergency road repairs this spring and corresponding highway vehicle issues means the Town is ending the year in a cash deficit, Dorinda said. She suggested that an alternative to short-term borrowing from a bank until the Town receives tax payments, most likely in September, would be to borrow from other Town funds which have a total of \$250,000, enough to cover expenses over the next two months. The Board agreed.

Tentative plans are to set the tax rate at the next Board meeting of July 30th. By then, the Town should know Middlesex education rate which was delayed due to the June 25, 2019 WCUUSD budget vote. Meanwhile, she said, there is a loan payment of \$23,532.81 due to Community National Bank by July 25th, before the next meeting. It's not in the orders, so the Board moved to add it.

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded adding an order to pay a \$23,532.81 note to Community National Bank due on July 25, 2019. The motion passed.

Mary asked Dorinda her estimate of further FY19 expenses; Dorinda ball-parked it at \$8,000.

Dorinda asked the Board about \$250 due to the general fund from the Town Forest for a survey. The Board agreed it should be off the books by the fiscal year's end. The Board said Dick Picard should be paid a deposit now for painting Town Hall and agreed with Dorinda that future Town painting jobs should be sent out to bid.

Accepting the Option Agreement to Purchase Rumney School

The Board reviewed an Option Agreement signed by the Middlesex Town (Rumney) School Board on June 28, 2019, hours after voters approved at a Special School Meeting that, should Rumney no longer be used for educational services to students after becoming Washington Central Unified Union School District property on July 1, 2019, the Town would have the option to purchase the school building for \$1.

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded accepting the Option Agreement.

Peter noted he was very disappointed in the content and quality of the documents which, he said, had been simply copied from Calais's Option Agreement its town's voters approved in April. He said the future uses specified in the agreement are so unattractive that it's doubtful the Town would ever choose to exercise the option. In addition, the Town would be on the hook for all remaining debt and must repay its obligation to the state. The motion passed and Peter signed the agreement.

Reviewing the 2019 Town Plan

The Board reviewed the 2019 Town Plan officially accepted from the Planning Commission on June 25th. Chief among the concerns was the language on page 24 under Middlesex Employers that boosted Red Hen Bakery and Planetary Matters, owner of the Red Hen complex. The Board agreed the Plan should not favor one employer over another and that long-standing businesses such as Bolduc Salvage, Dubois, McCullough Crushing and Bear Swamp Veterinary also provide jobs along with the Vermont State Police and State Archives. Mary countered the paragraphs about Red Hen provided detail about the bakery's operations and, therefore, made interesting reading. Phil suggested

[Type here]

eliminating mention of one particular business by name. The Board decided to include additional descriptions of other Middlesex businesses, tone-down the glowing Red Hen rhetoric and eliminate the train station as an employer since there are no employees there and, considering its location and limitations, unlikely to be employees there in the future. It also excised the Temporary Therapeutic Center which is slated to be moved. In addition, the Board reviewed "Strategy 63" on page 69 which referred to itemizing and collating implementation strategies from the 2001 Village Plan that "exceed those included in this Plan and that remain relevant to the Town." Would that bind the Town to whatever had been dictated in the 2001 Plan? And what did that mean anyway? Who would itemize and collate? The Board suggested it be removed or toned down to simply "review" as long as so doing would not mean the Plan would have to be sent back to the Planning Commission for a rewrite.

MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded to amend the 2019 Town Plan Draft with the above changes. The motion passed.

The Board signed the Public Hearing Notice it had approved at the Special Select Board Meeting of June 25th.

2019 Road and Bridge Standards

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards. The motion passed and the Board signed the document.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the June 18, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed. Phil abstained. The minutes were signed.

All orders were signed.

Phil and Mary left the meeting at 5:40 PM. Without a quorum, the meeting was immediately adjourned.

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIALLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON JULY 30, 2019.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

N/A
STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF