

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Steve Martin,
Vice Chair
 Randy Drury
 Phil Hyjek
 Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
REMOTE VIA ZOOM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

PRESENT: Peter O. Hood, Chair, Steve Martin, Vice Chair. Members Randy Drury, Phil Hyjek, and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Commission Vic Dwire. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM and welcomed Randy as new Select Board member.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Peter O. Hood as Select Board Chair

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded reappointing Peter as chair. The motion passed.

Allowing the Chair to Vote

Peter explained that because there are five members on the Board, historically the Board has voted to allow the chair to vote, even though this is not allowed in Roberts Rules of Order.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded that the Select Board Chair be allowed to vote. The motion passed.

Adopting Roberts Rules of Order as a Board Procedure

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded adopting Roberts Rules of Order as Board procedure. The motion passed.

Steve Martin as Vice Chair

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded appointing Steve Martin as Vice Chair. Randy nominated Phil; Phil respectfully declined. The motion passed.

Holding Select Board Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of Every Month

Peter said he was about to recommend the Board meet in person, but is not happy with the Washington County COVID numbers. Liz suggested meeting remotely now and revisiting the issue during the first meeting of every month. She is in favor of in-person meetings, but said even when the Board meets in person, there should be a provision for remote access. Peter said his understanding is that ARPA money can be used to pay for equipment that would facilitate remote meetings. Dorinda said there is a one-time standard deduction up to \$1 million under ARPA so there's no need to itemize right now.

MOTION: Steve moved that Select Board meetings should be held the first and third Tuesday at 5 PM of every month remotely for the time being with an eye toward meeting in person in Town Hall, after periodic reviews about the local COVID status. Randy seconded. The motion passed.

Times Argus as Newspaper of Record

MOTION: Liz nominated and Phil seconded designating the Times Argus as the newspaper of record. The motion passed.

Vic Dwire as Road Commissioner

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded reappointing Vic Dwire as Road Commissioner. The motion passed.

Eric Young as Interim Lister

Peter referred to an emailed letter submitted by veteran Lister Eric Young – who did not run for reelection – saying he would be willing to work about four hours per week until May 1st to help train a new Lister and some additional light work, but that he wished to retire. Peter said he worried that two months would not be enough. Dorinda said Listers are currently paid \$28; the \$30 would not kick in until the new fiscal year. Phil said he had no problem with the \$30. Eric has a lot of experience and the office needs a lot of help. The Board is in a difficult position. Liz asked if it could be done full time; Dorinda said Lister hours total are budgeted for only 800. Peter said the hard work is being done by the hired assessor. The Lister year starts April 1 and Peter said he hopes Eric can help with making progress on the Grand List.

MOTION: Phil moved to appoint Eric Young as lister and pay him \$30/hour; Steve seconded. Randy stressed that the \$30 is only because Eric has so much experience; Dorinda said the other Lister positions pay \$24/hour. Phil accepted that amendment. The motion that Eric Young be appointed Lister and paid \$30/hour because of his 15 years of experience passed.

Margaret Schwartz as Emergency Management Coordinator

MOTION: Randy moved and Steve seconded reappointing Margaret Schwartz as Emergency Management Coordinator for the upcoming year. The motion was approved.

Jason Merrill as Fire Warden

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded reappointing Jason Merrill Fire Warden. The motion passed.

Gary Lamell as Tree Warden

MOTION: Liz moved and Randy seconded Gary Lamell as Tree Warden. The motion passed.

George Longenecker to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board

MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded George Longenecker as the Middlesex Representative to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board. The motion passed.

Mitch Osiecki as Recreation Director

MOTION: Randy moved and Steve seconded reappointing Mitch as Recreation Director. The motion passed.

Reappointing All Current Members of the ZBA

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded reappointing the following Middlesex citizens to the Zoning Board of Adjustment: Sara Birgé, Charlene Bohl, Roger Hirt, Peter Raymond and Stacey Skadberg. The motion passed.

Reappointing Dave Lawrence to the CVFiber Board

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded David Lawrence to the CVFiber Board. The motion passed.

Reappointing Dell McDonough and John Udis to the CVSWMD Board

MOTION: Liz moved and Randy seconded reappointing Dell McDonough the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board and John Udis as alternate. The motion passed.

Setting Select Board Goals for 2022

Peter suggested the Board work on finding Listers, conclude the Town’s merger with Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department, address the revised zoning regulations the Planning Commission will be drafting and work on disbursing ARPA Funds. Phil said in order to qualify for a matching grant, the disbursement to CVFiber will have to be made before September 1 and it should be a public process.

Liz asked if ARPA funds can be used to match federal grants; Randy said yes. There are some prohibitions. He said ARPA money cannot be used for new construction. Randy suggested holding a meeting just to discuss ARPA. Peter said ARPA funds can be used for a planning grant. Dorinda said categories are necessary only if the Town spends over \$10 million; otherwise, it’s a one-time, standard deduction. Steve said Welch Park should be easily resolved. Dorinda asked even if the Town can’t withdraw from the Welch Park Association, how about removing the Town as the Association’s accountant.

Goals:

- Resolving ongoing Welch Park issues and possibly leaving the association or, at least, handing over financial duties.
- Concluding the process of making the MVFD a Town department
- Holding public meetings deciding how to disburse ARPA funds
- Moving forward with Town Hall planning
- Updating the Town’s speeding ordinance
- Review other Town policies besides personnel
- Hire a fourth member of the Road Crew
- Deal with Lister/property taxation assessment issue

The organizational meeting concluded at 6:05 PM.

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Highway Report

Vic said equipment repairs are 266.7% over budget. The Board asked Sarah to post ads for a Road Crew position. The Board discussed the fact that a member of the Road Crew doesn’t want to use chains. Randy stressed that this is a matter for the Foreman to handle, not for Board member(s) to deal with outside the Board. The Board should stand behind the Foreman as support. Peter agreed.

Liz asked how a sign could be placed on Culver Hill Road warning motorists of the sharp corner. People often drive off the road, she said.

Peter said something has to be done about Carole Picard’s menagerie of animals on Brook Road in that he’s twice come across cows in the road. Encounters with the owner have not gone well. He said it’s a safety issue and worried that the animals will get hurt and, possibly, motorists as well.

Peter said he received a letter from Don Hirsch saying the Road Commissioner was rude and unpleasant. Peter said he’s offered his cell so that Don can call him. The issue is that Don, apparently, plows snow into the Town’s turn around on Upper Barnett Road. This is creating a problem the Foreman will deal with.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approval of the February 15, 2022 Select Board Meeting minutes. The motion passed with Randy abstaining.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approving the minutes from the February 22, 2022 Informational Meeting. The motion passed with Randy and Liz abstaining.

All orders were signed.

Randy said his Town email had been updated to Randy.Drury@middlesexvermont.org

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE REMOTELY APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON MARCH 15, 2022.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

STEVEN MARTIN, VICE CHAIR

RANDY DRURY

PHIL HYJEK

ELIZABETH SCHARF