

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
REMOTE VIA ZOOM
 Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
 5 Church Street
 Middlesex, Vermont 05602
 (802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

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

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda

Liz Scharf Named Select Board Vice Chair

MOTION: Phil moved and Randy seconded appointing Liz Scharf as Vice Chair. The motion passed.

Executive Session

MOTION: Phil moved and Randy seconded entering Executive Session per 1 VSA § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment or employment of an employee and to include Dorinda and Vic. The motion passed and the Board entered executive session at 4:04 PM and exited at 4:33 PM. Peter said a verbal offer will be made to a Road Foreman candidate and will be followed up with a written offer. If the candidate accepts, the Board will ratify its decision at its next regular meeting on July 21, 2022.

Approving Center Road Culvert Bids

Vic said Middlesex contractor Jason Merrill submitted a bid to replace 6 culverts on Center Road that was nearly \$40,000 less than bids submitted by Hutchins and Kinsbury. He said Jason's proposal is much more specific and includes repairs to an area near Colby Road.

MOTION: Phil moved awarding the Center Road culvert job to Jason Merrill for \$31,154 and Randy seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of 28 Rich Road FEMA Buyout Documents

Randy said he'd reviewed the documents and the third-party contributions to the buyout so far and was satisfied there was enough money from FEMA and third-party non-profits to cover the cost to the 28 Rich Road buyout.

MOTION: Phil moved and Randy seconded approving and designating chair to sign the Subgrant Agreement with Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission for \$34,000, the Agreement Amendment with the VT Department of Public Safety for \$179,325 and FEMA's Voluntary Transaction Agreement between owner Jennifer Evans and the Town of Middlesex. The motion passed and Peter said he would sign the documents next week.

OTHER BUSINESS

Phil met with an easement specialist working with CV Fiber to discuss placing a 2' X 2' cabinet to hold a junction box on a cement pad at a site on Town property near the Highway Garage on Shady Rill Road where Consolidated already has an easement inherited from Verizon. CVFiber will draft an easement agreement that will be brought to the Board soon enough so the connections could be set up this summer. Hanging fiber could begin in late summer or early fall. Connecting to the network, conservatively, would begin next spring. Like many other companies, there is a shortage of labor. Waitsfield Telecom has been confirmed as the operator. Dorinda asked about an invoice from CVFiber so she can release \$100,000 in ARPA funds approved by the Board to be given to CVFiber for this purpose. Phil said he would contact the executive director and request an invoice.

The Board discussed a revised contract from HP Fairfield that changed the terms of the current contract for renting a mower in August. The "two-week" contract would go from August 8, 2022 to August 19, 2022 (11 days) and cost \$9,000 - \$2,000 more than the contracted amount. Dorinda noted this is a violation of the earlier contract and she would not sign the new one since it's also an unbudgeted expense. Peter discussed mowing for only one week to keep it in the budget or maybe just mowing the intersections. The Board decided not to accept the new contract and to, instead, seek alternative solutions such as advertising for a roadside mowing contractor since it's unlikely there will be enough Road Crew members to operate the mower anyway. Peter said this supports the need for a four-person Road Crew. Dorinda said HP Fairfield, which won't rent mowers next year, is selling them for \$130,000 - \$160,000. Randy said a mower purchase should be considered in the Highway Department's capital improvement plan.

Vic said the price of chloride has gone up, though he doesn't know by how much. The new John Deere grader has a shifting problem, but John Deere won't cover the cost of road calls or hauling the grader to a repair place even though the Town bought that grader just last summer for \$280,500.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 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 JUNE 21, 2022.

 PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

 N/A
 LIZ SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

 RANDY DRURY

 PHIL HYJEK