

Select Board Members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz, Scharf, Vice Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Drury
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vic Dwire
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023  
Middlesex Town Hall and 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, Phil Hyjek\* and Vic Dwire. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Foreman and MVFD Chief Eric Metivier. MVFD President Jeff Koonz and FAST Squad director Patty O'Neill. The meeting at Town Hall was recorded on Zoom and by ORCA. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes. (\*signifies attendees via Zoom)

**Call to Order/Amendments**

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

**Highway Report: Starting Process for Ordering a New Town Truck**

Eric asked the Board to review a spec sheet for bids on a new highway truck to replace the 2018 International Dump Truck in 2025/2026. It will need to be ordered now due to a backlog. With the Board's approval, Eric will solicit International, Freightliner, Western Star and Kenworth. Peter encouraged Eric to research the trucks' transmission, repair histories and warranties in addition to price since it costs the Town when a truck is out of commission.

Dorinda asked about the deadline. Eric said it should be ordered this spring. Peter asked about when the Town would get a firm price; Eric said he assumed right away. Dorinda reminded the Board that after signing a contract for the most recent truck, the company returned with a demand for \$5,000 more due to inflation. Peter said part of the proposal should be that the vendors, not the Town, outline the differences between what they're offering and what the Town requested.

Vic asked when the Town will switch to electric vehicles. Peter said maybe the day is not too far off for an electric pickup. Randy said availability for what the Town needs is coming. Peter said when the State starts buying them will be a good indication.

**Appointing Paula Otenti Emergency Management Coordinator**

Ever since Margaret Schwartz resigned in December of last year, the Town has been without an Emergency Management Coordinator, which the Town needs to complete the annual Emergency Management Plan by April. Sarah encouraged the Board to appoint Paula, Middlesex's former EMC, because she has experience and accreditation.

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Randy seconded appointing Paula Otenti EMC until the March reorganizational meeting. The motion passed.

**Approving the Biannual MOU for Ambulance Services with Montpelier**

The Board reviewed the memorandum of understanding with the City of Montpelier for two years of ambulance service at the following costs. July 2022-July 2023 = \$72,702; July 2023-July 2024 = \$76,500 and July 2024 - July 2025 = \$80,490.

Dorinda pointed out these numbers are higher than the Town had budgeted. Peter said he was surprised the numbers weren't higher.

**MOTION:** Phil moved, and Vic seconded approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Medical Service between the Town of Middlesex and the City of Montpelier. The motion passed and Peter as chair signed the MOU.

Shortly thereafter, Patty and Jeff arrived to ask the Board to reconsidering signing the MOU, partly because they're investigating less expensive alternatives and also because of paragraph 5 in the MOU which reads: *If the City explores joining a regional ambulance service during the period of this agreement or shortly thereafter (up to six months), the City shall negotiate in concert with the Town so as to maximize the interests of both the City and the Town.*

Jeff and Patty said that paragraph concerned them because it implied if Montpelier joins a regional ambulance group, satellite towns like Middlesex might be left without services. They asked the Board to at least white out paragraph 5.

In response, Peter said this is a unilateral contract which does not allow for that kind of editing. Moreover, Montpelier has been discussing joining a regional service for years (in fact prior MOUs the Board has approved include the same paragraph). As the paragraph states, if the city is about to join such a regional enterprise, it will work with the Town to reach a solution. That said, he asked the MVFD to forward any minutes from meetings concerning the regional ambulance service formation and to keep the Board apprised of any developments. Patty and Jeff agreed and left the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Randy seconded approving the minutes of the January 17, 2023 regular Select Board Meeting and the January 24, 2023 Special Select Board meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Randy seconded approving The Local's application for a first-class liquor license at its wine shop near Red Hen Bakery. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

Correspondence: Sarah passed on emails from Liz that the Town received 250 responses to the survey about what Town residents envision for Town Hall. There were hundreds of comments in addition. The Board requested to see the survey results and comments; Sarah said she'd forward them. Also, there was no word on whether the Town received a grant to offset the costs of a Town Hall study.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

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PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

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ELIZABETH SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

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RANDY DRURY

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VIC DWIRE

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PHIL HYJEK