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| <p><b>Select Board Members</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood, Chair</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Liz, Scharf, Vice Chair</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Drury</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vic Dwire</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek</p> |
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**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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\*. Liz Scharf, Vice Chair. Members Randy Drury, Vic Dwire, and Phil Hyjek\*. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Megan Nedzinski from VIA\* Sandy Levine. Historical Society member Sarah Seidman. David Magida. Energy Committee member Greg Whitchurch. MVFD President Jeff Koonz and Chief Eric Metivier, who is also the Road Foreman. 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.

**Vermont Integrated Architects Presentation**

Megan reviewed the results of a community survey about Town Hall that elicited 241 responses, an impressive outcome. Keeping the location of the Town Hall at 5 Church Street: 75% of respondents thought that was important. Historic character was not as important, though 69% of the respondents agreed that was important. Space available for gatherings: 83% of the respondents thought that was important. Kitchen facilities: 65% thought that was important and 75% thought a community food shelf was important. A number of comments related to accessibility to the building, including the upper floor designated as Town Hall.

Megan said now VIA is going to look at how much square footage is needed for each use. For example, the vault needs to be expanded from 105 square feet to 210 square feet. Sarah and Dorinda asked VIA to designate a financial office. Currently, the Listers and bookkeeper and treasurer share a small space.

David, who's on the Town Hall planning committee, said he wanted to make sure the study at this stage stays on task, that those involved don't get ahead of themselves. Peter asked if the vault needs to be expanded in a digital age; Sarah said by law, all digital records must be backed up with paper including paper indexes. He said large meetings can be held at the school which has kitchen facilities, so the Town Hall doesn't have to be redesigned to meet that periodic need.

Liz said upstairs could converted to multiple rooms. Sandy brought up the idea of contracting and expanding spaces.

Megan asked if these discussions should be part of Select Board meetings or should they be broken off. Peter said the Board likes to keep Select Board meetings to two hours, but if the Board needs to have special meetings, then it will have special meetings.

David said a smaller committee should be working on this project in the beginning without taking up the full Board's time. Megan said that's more typical. Sarah Seidman said the Historical Society can be an asset by presenting exhibits to the community.

Liz asked about the next steps. VIA will be returning on March 21 with a drawing. Sandy suggested meetings with a smaller group ahead of Select Board meetings. VIA will return on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Megan, Sandy and David left the meeting.

**Monthly Meeting with the MVFD**

Jeff reviewed the MVFD's activities since the last meeting. (Notes available at the bottom of these minutes.) He said the MVFD had its first meeting with Lakes Region Fire Aparatus to get an estimate of what a new rescue vehicle would cost. If it were ordered today, it wouldn't be delivered until 2024, 2025, that's how long the backlog is. Meanwhile, the MVFD is up over five responders per call. Peter asked the MVFD to explore used rescue vehicles; Jeff said the concern is a used rescue vehicle will be in as bad shape as the current one. Randy, who's on the Budget Committee and has been involved with formulating the capital plan, said the recue vehicle was due to be replaced last year at \$140k.

The Board discussed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for Capital Fire Mutual Aid and passed on approval due to questions about what it was for and how the Town would be tied to future commitments. The Board asked Jeff to contact a representative for CFMA to come in on the March 21, 2023, meeting to answer those questions. Jeff left the meeting.

**Highway Department Report**

Eric said there were repairs on Freightliner. The Road Crew has been working on repairing potholes and mud holes using material from last fall when they ripped up Center Road. The roads will be posted March 1. Eric said he is waiting to hear about pricing for a new truck. The excavator is on the capital plan to be replaced in 2024. Eric said he's working up a spec, but that excavators are not as difficult to obtain as new trucks.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Phil seconded approval of the February 7, 2023, Select Board meeting minutes. Motion passed with Liz abstaining. The minutes were signed.

All orders were signed.

Correspondence: Sarah brought up an email from Russ Bennett talking about water found on the old Colby property on Center Road and how that might be used for the Village. The Board discussed an update from FEMA re: a buyout of a house in the floodplain on Rich Road which was delayed six months while the owner produced receipts. Apparently, that issue has been resolved and FEMA would like to move forward. However, the October 2023 deadline for the conclusion of the project hasn't changed. The Board asked Sarah to research how long asbestos assessments and removal would take.

The Board discussed how to prepare for the February 28<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting Informational Hearing. Randy will develop a brief presentation about the Capital Improvement plan and corresponding article on the Warning.

The Board thanked Phil, who's stepping down, for his two+ terms of service on the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by 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 MARCH 14, 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

21 Feb MVFD Meeting Notes

Total calls to date: 10	E-1 out 3 times
Calls during the last month: 6	E-6 out 1 times
Mutual Aid out: 3	T-1 out 3 times
Mutual Aid in: 0	R-1 out 2 times
Max members respond: 7	Tk-14 out 0 time
Min members respond: 4	
Avg members respond: 5.16	

Calls:

19 Jan, VT Rt 12, Car into ditch, CNX'd before could leave station, 5 responders  
20 Jan, Zdon Rd, Tree on power line, E-1, T-1, 4 responders  
21 Jan, Calais Rd Worcester, Structure fire, E-1, E-6, T-1, 6 responders  
MA out  
22 Jan, River Rd Moretown, Vehicle slide off, CNX'd by in-route responder before others could leave station, 4 responders  
MA out  
28 Jan, I-89, Car fire, E-1, T-1, 7 responders  
05 Feb, Little River Rd Waterbury, Structure fire, T-1, R-1, 5 responders  
MA out

Training: Knots

Repairs: 1986 R-1 Hydro boost pump replacement, waiting for bill

Purchases: New AED to replace non-working one.

New Rescue Update: Had first meeting with Lake Region Fire Apparatus, NH to get quote.

FAST Sq:

12 total for the reporting period  
9 medical only calls  
3 in conjunction with FD calls