

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Liz, Scharf, Vice Chair
 Brigid Browning
 Randy Drury
 Vic Dwire

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
EMERGENCY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
via Zoom**

MINUTES.

PRESENT: Peter O. Hood, Chair, Liz Scharf, Vice Chair. Members Brigid Browning, Randy Drury and Vic Dwire. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes, and the meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM

Hiring a Project Manager for Flood Recovery Road Projects

The Board reviewed three project manager proposals from Paul Cerminara at \$75/hour, Jason Merrill at \$125/hour and Steve Martin at \$70/hour. Peter noted that Steve stepped up to do the job during the emergency phase following the flood, when Towns were advised to do what they had to do to get the roads back in order. Randy said that his research shows that a salary in Vermont for these types of jobs is about \$80,000, which averages \$40/hour.

Liz said \$70/hour seems high for a town employee. Randy said that rate would be fine for an independent contractor, not for a town employee. Liz agreed. Other towns are paying more to flood-recovery project managers because they're self-employed contractors. Vic said the position is set up for 1,080 hours of work. Peter said Steve envisioned working 20 hours per week, with that tapering down as the projects are completed.

Randy said switching midstream would be difficult. He said Steve has agreed to do this work and it's on the Town for not solidifying the deal (during the emergency phase). The Board discussed various rates of pay. Peter said being covered by the town's insurance is a huge expense, as is the self-employment tax. Randy suggested \$50-\$52/hour plus a vehicle mileage rate of 65.5 cents per mile.

Liz said she agrees \$70/hour is too high, way outside the range of normal Town employee pay. She said that might raise questions with the taxpayers, even if FEMA will be reimbursing this expense. She suggested going with \$52/hour and paying mileage, which, with mileage, would average an annual salary of \$108,000.

MOTION: Liz moved to offer Steve Martin \$52/hour plus mileage to serve as project manager overseeing road-recovery and improvements due to the July 8-10, 2023, flood until January 10, 2024. Brigid seconded. The motion passed.

Vic said he would deliver the offer to Steve.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

ELIZABETH SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

BRIGID BROWNING

RANDY DRURY

VIC DWIRE