

**Select Board Members**

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**  
**Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom\***  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Liz Scharf, and Select Board member Vic Dwire (who is also Road Commissioner). Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Foreman and MVFD Chief Eric Metivier. MVFD President Jeff Koonz. Former Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes, and the meeting was recorded by ORCA. (\*indicates attended via Zoom)

**Call to Order, Welcoming Guests, Approving Minutes and Agenda**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Liz seconded, approving the October 3, 2023, Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

**MOTION:** Liz moved, and Vic seconded, approving the October 17, 2023, minutes from the Regular Select Board meeting. The motion passed.

**Highway Department Update**

Eric said the Town Highway Department is bringing in winter sand. FEMA-supported work has begun on East Hill Road. Liz asked about the width of Culver Hill Road, saying it was much narrower. Steve said he is working on the permanent-repair projects that will be submitted to FEMA. The Board discussed repairs to the box culvert in Lower Sunny Brook Road that will require an updated hydraulic study.

**Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting**

Jeff reviewed the calls to which the MVFD responded since the last joint meeting in September. (Please see report at the bottom of these minutes.)

The new-to-the-Town rescue vehicle from North Hyde Park may be available Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Jeff said they'll need to switch radio out of current rescue and put it in the new one. It already has FIRE DEPARTMENT stenciled on the side; it just needs MIDDLESEX. The plan is to sell the current rescue. Dorinda said the check to North Hyde Park was in the orders, but she wasn't going to sign the check until the transaction.

Jeff said the number of MVFD personnel responding to calls is up. Liz said MERP officials will be assessing the heating needs of the MVFD soon since the current heating system is hanging on by a thread. Jeff said if the MVFD switches over to an electric system, the generator will need to be upgraded as well. Liz said the assessment will take that into consideration. The Board discussed how to handle the heating needs. Liz noted the Town Plan urges the municipality to steer away from carbon-based systems. Jeff and Eric left the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Dorinda said she tapped into the \$3 million line of credit from Community Bank to cover FEMA-reimbursed road repairs to pay for approximately \$1.5 million in emergency road repair.

She mentioned that a recent analysis of RBTech's proposal to switch over the Town email accounts for 14 employees/volunteers at a cost of \$10,000 determined that this proposal was too high. Take issue with the amt proposed from RBTech to upgrade the Town's email for \$10,000 for 14 people. Another IT company from Waterbury was recommended to Board Member Randy Drury. The Board discussed how best to approach the situation. Peter said he may review the quote before moving forward.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Liz moved, and Vic seconded submitting Reney Woodard and Kyle Weaver's application for a federal buyout of their property at 15 Lower Sunny Brook to VT Emergency Management. The motion passed. Liz said she was worried about losing a significant tax base if all these buyouts go through.

All orders were signed.

Welch Park Update: Welch Park Association stakeholder Carl Bailin and a representative from Grenier Engineering met with Peter to discuss the dissolution of the association. According to the engineering firm, the first step would be to transfer ownership of the Welch Park Drive stormwater permit from the association to the Town of Middlesex until the Board accepts the private road as a Town road when it will be included in the Town's general stormwater permit. The transition will cost \$250. Dorinda asked who should pay. Peter said the fee will be divided among all the Welch Park Association members, as will the legal and engineering fees incurred during the dissolution. Peter said he saw no need for the Board to submit a letter saying it intends to make Welch Park Drive a Town road.

**MOTION:** Vic moved, and Liz seconded, the transfer of the ANR stormwater permit for Welch Park Drive from the Welch Park Association to the Town of Middlesex. The motion passed and Peter signed the transfer authorization which was then emailed to Grenier Engineering.

**MOTION:** Liz moved and Vic seconded approving and signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Vermont to participate in the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

Liz said the Board needs to think about how to come up with \$42,000 to move to the next phase of the Town Hall planning, a more in-depth design. Vic raised the issue of the Highway Department's decrepit garage off Shady Rill Road; Paul noted a study said it couldn't be insulated or the roof would cave in. The Board discussed possibly asking voters to approve a bond to rehabilitate Town Hall. If it passes, then the money for the in-depth design can be paid from that. If it fails, then that will be the end of current efforts to renovate Town Hall. Dorinda said the Board needs to be mindful of the 25% match required of these FEMA projects; that may entail a bond vote in itself. The Board agreed to put the issue on its next agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023.

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PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

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ELIZABETH SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

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N/A  
BRIGID BROWNING

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
RANDY DRURY

\_\_\_\_\_  
VIC DWIRE

#### 17 October SB Meeting Notes

Total calls to date: 72	E-1 out 6 times
Calls during the last month: 7	E-6 out 1 time
Mutual Aid out: 0	T-1 out 3 times
Mutual Aid in: 1	R-1 out 2 times
Max members respond: 8	Tk-14 out 0 times
Min members respond: 3	
Avg members respond: 5.1	

23 Sep, Hunger Mtn Trail, Lift assist, R-1, 3 responders direct  
24 Sep, I-89, Car vs Deer, E-1, 3 responders  
03 Oct, Zdon Rd, CO Det false alarm, E-1, T-1, 8 responders  
04 Oct, I-89, Two car accident, E-1, T-1, 5 responders  
04 Oct, Portal Rd, Stolen car into ditch/tree, E-1, E-6, T-1, R-1, 8 responders  
MA in, Worcester  
09 Oct, I-89, Two car MVA, E-1, 4 responders  
Had to shut down I-89 SB  
09 Oct, I-89, Car fire, E-1, 4 responders  
Nothing showing

Training: Vertical ventilation, chainsaw safety and operation.

Work Night: Tested Three Mile Bridge dry hydrant.

Repairs: E-6 finally had the valves replaced.

Purchases:

New Rescue Update: North Hyde Park truck may be ready Sunday 22 Oct!

FAST Sq:  
17 total for the reporting period  
11 medical only calls