

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Peter Hood and Vice Chair Liz Scharf. Select Board members, Brigid Browning*, Randy Drury (who is also a member of the Budget Committee) and Vic Dwire (who is also Road Commissioner). Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. CVRPC Community Development Planner Eli Toohey. Road Foreman and MVFD Chief Eric Metivier. Town Highway FEMA Project Manager Steve Martin. MVFD President Jeff Koonz. Stephen Dennis* and Samantha Beaudoin*. 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 5:00 PM.

MOTION: Liz moved, and Vic seconded approving the October 17, 2023, Select Board meeting minutes. Brigid and Randy were not at the meeting and did not sign the minutes.

MOTION: Randy moved, and Vic seconded approving the November 7, 2023, Select Board meeting minutes. Liz was not present at the meeting and did not sign the minutes.

MOTION: Liz moved, and Vic seconded, approving the amended agenda for the November 21, 2023, Select Board meeting which included discussion about the Welch Park Drive.

Approving Montgomery FEMA Buyout Application

MOTION: Liz moved, and Vic seconded approving Brian Montgomery's application for a FEMA buyout of his property at 8 Lower Sunny Brook Road. The motion passed and Peter signed the necessary documents.

Approving an Amendment Agreement for GA#3061

MOTION: Randy moved, and Vic seconded approving an amendment to the 2022 AOT Grants in Aid #GA0361 extending the completion deadline to September 30, 2024. The motion passed and Peter signed the amendment agreement.

Approving Participation in the Municipal Technical Assistance Program

Eli explained that the intent of the free Municipal Technical Assistance Program is to help Town officials with applications and administration of grants. The grants must be for certain projects such as water infrastructure, waste-water infrastructure, climate change mitigation and resilience and community economic development – a broad umbrella for projects that may or may not be ultimately approved. She said the first step is for the Town to officially participate in the MTAP by putting a warned item on the Select Board agenda, such as this. After that, Eli said, the Town will go through a needs assessment and match funding opportunities. Middlesex is eligible for this program due to the extensive flood damage. Community economic development might cover some road rebuilding costs. Liz said climate change and resilience might apply to Town Hall. Liz asked about deadlines; Eli said it depends on the funding stream. This program is a two-year program. The technical assistance would be to help write the grants. The town would come up with a list of priorities and then develop the scope of work. Randy asked if the Town was locked into the program; Eli said no - it's free technical assistance. Peter asked if the grant could help with supplementing FEMA projects; Eli said she wasn't sure.

MOTION: Liz moved that the Town participate in the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. Vic seconded. The motion passed. Eli left the meeting.

Highway Report – FEMA Update

Steve said hopefully All Seasons is done with safety work on Center and East Hill roads and will work on a culvert, weather depending. There is still ditching and ledge removal for the second contract on Upper Sunny Brook and Davy Road. Randy asked about the number of future FEMA projects; Vic said it depends on how they're combined. There are 17 roads that will need work, though some can be combined. East Hill alone is going to be up towards a half million project. There are 19 culverts that need to be replaced, along with ditching and ditch stone and 5,000 yards of gravel. FEMA did a site visit with the Road Foreman. Sarah explained that the "emergency work" has been submitted to FEMA, which is reviewing invoices and highway time sheets.

Vic said the Town is about to receive permits from the VT Agency of Natural Resources to remove 200 feet of gravel from the Great Brook on either side of the bridge to McCullough Hill Road. The Town will need to hire a contractor to remove the gravel. The root ball in the river by Don Jones's property will not be removed because the brook runs through private land. ANR did not seem too concerned about that because the water can get underneath and around it, Vic said, adding that ANR suggested the property owner consult a professional arborist.

Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting

Jeff delivered the MVFD monthly report of fire department activities. The MVFD was praised for its participation in fighting the RK Miles fire on granite-shed road in Montpelier. The O2 sensor on the MVFD gas meter went out and, therefore, the meter will need to be replaced.

MVFD Budget

Eric said the FY25 budget request is not that much different from FY24 (the current year). He said the State now requires EMTs to carry Narcan and epinephrine, so asking for an increase in that aspect of the budget. Radio dispatch costs are \$33,678, which includes the contribution of \$3,017 toward future upgrades of the dispatch system. Otherwise, Eric said, he's tried to level fund the MVFD budget. The Board discussed the bond on the fire station which reaches maturity in 2030. Eric and Jeff left the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

All orders were signed.

The Board discussed whether to downgrade Mead Road beyond the broken bridge. The Board would like a letter sent to Zach French re: abiding by the Town's Class 4 Roads & Legal Trails policy. The Board will begin the process of downgrading Mead Road – after the bridge abutment – to a legal trail at its December 5, 2023 regular meeting.

The Board reviewed a letter from the town attorney re: turning Welch Park Drive into a Class 3 Town road. The Board will begin the process of dedication and acceptance at its December 5, 2023 regular meeting.

Town Hall bond vote discussion. The next step is a \$45,000 design phase. The Board discussed whether to pay the money now and create a more detailed design for the voters or to float a bond vote that would cover the \$45,000 cost. List noted Dave Magida who's been a key planner in the Town Hall rehabilitation preferred paying for a design phase first. Sarah and Dorinda suggested putting the \$45,000 design fee as a special article on the March 2024 Town Meeting Warning.

5:00 PM

November 28, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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 DECEMBER 5, 2023.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

ELIZABETH SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

BRIGID BROWNING

RANDY DRURY

VIC DWIRE

21 Nov SB Meeting Notes

Total calls to date: 85	E-1 out 6 times
Calls during the last month: 13	E-6 out 3 times
Mutual Aid out: 2	T-1 out 6 times
Mutual Aid in: 1	R-1 out 4 times
Max members respond: 9	Tk-14 out 0 times
Min members respond: 1	
Avg members respond: 3.75	

20 Oct, I-89 SB, Car Fire, no fire, E-1, T-1, R-1, 4 responders direct
22 Oct, Camp Meade Complex, Fire Alarm, Candle Fire, E-1, 2 responders
28 Oct, US 2 and Rt 100B, 2 vehicle MVA, E-1, R-1, 4 responders
30 Oct, Brook Rd, Tree on power line, no hazard, 1 responder to scene
31 Oct, I-89, 1 car MVA, Nothing found cnx'd by MAS, no responders before cnx
31 Oct US Rt 2 and Lower Sunny Brook, vehicle off road cnx'd by MAS, 2 responders
01 Nov, Stone Cutter Way, Structure Fire, E-1, T-1, R-1, 9 responders
 MA Out to Montpelier
09 Nov, I-89 SB, Vehicle slide off, E-1, 1 responder
09 Nov, Exit Park and Ride, Truck fire, E-1, T-1, R-1, 5 responders
 MA in Waterbury FD
11 Nov, Jones Brook Road, Smoke Detector Activation, False Alarm, E-1, T-1, 4 responders
 MA Out to Moretown
14 Nov, Wood Road, Haze in house, E-1, E-6, T-1, 5 responders
15 Nov, West Hill Rd, Odor, E-6, 2 responders
15 Nov, Wrightsville Res Swimming Area, Brush Fire, E-1, E-6, T-1, 6 responders
Training: Montpelier fire lessons learned.

Work Night:

Repairs: Air Pak belt replaced, under warranty.
Purchases: Need to replace failed gas meter, repair cost too high, \$1,048.90 for new meter.

New Rescue Update: We have the new Rescue, new radio is installed, need to get it registered and move equipment over. We will plan that tonight.

FAST Sq:

13 total for the reporting period
9 medical only calls