

**Select Board Members**

Peter Hood, Chair  
 Mary Just Skinner,  
Vice Chair  
 Mary Alexander  
 William Callnan  
 Steve Martin

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2014**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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Present: Chair Peter Hood, Select Board Members Mary Hood Alexander, Steven Martin, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara and Select Board Assistant, Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order**

1. Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Highway Updates**

2. Paul said he has been comparing quotes for a loader to replace the Town's 1996 model that is in jeopardy of losing its rollover protection and, therefore, should not be rebuilt. Even with a trade, a replacement would cost between \$110,000 and \$120,000. Peter noted that financing that cost over eight to 10 years wouldn't be that huge of an impact on the Town budget.
3. Paul also applied for a federal surplus contract so the Town could acquire tools and, if in decent condition, equipment for a low acquisition fee.
4. Steve, who is also Road Commissioner, said Paul and he continue to actively pursue an AOT grant that would ideally fund replacement of a Shady Rill culvert on Herrick Brook. However, with state funding so limited, the Town might have to replace the culvert one year and then repave that section of Shady Rill the next.

**Flooding Preparation**

5. In response to Middlesex Fire Chief Doug Hanson's request that the Select Board ask Montpelier to notify Middlesex when the city is breaking up ice jams on the Winooski (see minutes from 1.28.2014 Select Board meeting), Peter said he spoke to Montpelier City Manager Bill Fraser and Bill said the city's fire chief believed he spoke to Doug the evening of the ice breakup. Bill suggested Middlesex residents subscribe to the free VT-Alert notification system to be alerted to rising river waters.
6. Peter proposed placing notifications about the VT-Alert system on Front Porch Forum and the Town's website and also sending letters to those living on Three Mile Bridge Road. It would also be a good idea if the Middlesex Fire Department were toned out in such emergencies as well.
7. Sarah submitted for the record a copy of Jeb Spaulding's letter notifying municipalities about a change in qualifications for receiving state aid in disaster recovery. So far, Middlesex met most of the higher standards in that it is part of the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA's Community Rating System. The Town Road and Bridge Standards were adopted at the January 14, 2014 Select Board meeting and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was in place. All the Select Board needed to do was approve an updated Local Emergency Operations plan after Town Meeting and insure that river corridors were protected.
8. Steve said he would present the new standards to the Planning Commission, of which he is a member, so it could address the issue of protecting river corridors.

## **Waiving the HS-122 Penalty in 2014**

9. The Board agreed to table the matter of whether to collect the full 8% penalty for the late filing of HS-122 (Homestead Declaration) forms until there was a full board.

### **Other Business**

10. **Mary moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the renewal of Red Hen Bakery's liquor license. The motion passed.**
11. **Steve moved and Mary seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014 Select Board meeting. The motion passed.**
12. All orders were signed.
13. Sarah outlined two recent crises handled by Animal Control Officer Erika Holm. One concerned the neglect of more than 25 animals in a Route 12 house for which Erika managed to find homes in January. In the other case, a teenage boy was bitten by an unlicensed pit bull mix on Rich Road on February 5th. The dog, which was also overdue for an updated rabies vaccine, was suspected of biting at least one other person on nearby Three Mile Bridge Road. Erika helped the dog's owner fulfill her wish of euthanizing the animal. Erika met the owner and the dog at the owner's home on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, loaded the dog into the back of Erika's car and took both to the Central Vermont Humane Society where the owner, Victoria Hallihan, signed documents agreeing to the euthanization. The Board commended Erika for diplomatically handling both situations that could have ended much worse.

### **Adjournment**

Peter adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.