

Select Board
√ Peter Hood, Chair
√ Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair
√ Bill Callnan
√ Mary Hood Alexander
√ Steve Martin

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, July 9, 2013**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**

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**Minutes**

**Present:** Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, Mary Hood Alexander, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Fire Chief Doug Hanson, Fire Department President Jeff Koonz, Erika Holm and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman. Chair Peter Hood attended via conference call.

**Call To Order**

1. Bill called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Setting of the Town Tax Rate**

2. The Board discussed setting the 2013Town tax rate. Peter said he could see pros and cons of using the existing fund balance to hold the Town tax rate steady from 2012. He expressed frustration that the Town should have to dip into its savings which were accumulated through prudent budgeting and spending to offset an increase in the Vermont education tax rate of ten cents per one hundred dollars' valuation from last year. On the other hand, the Board wanted to mitigate the effect of the state's higher rate. Bill said it would be nice to let the taxpayers have a little relief.
3. **MOTION: Bill moved to allocate a fund balance reduction of \$27,490 to set the total Town tax rate at .4231. Steve seconded. The motion passed**

**Appointment of Erika Holm as new Animal Control Officer**

4. Erika Holm, Middlesex resident and president of the Central Vermont Humane Society, spoke to the Board about her plans as Animal Control Officer, if appointed. She asked to be compensated at \$20/hour to go out on a call for the first hour and \$10/half hour after that. Erika said she would charge the Town for resolving issues over the phone on a case-by-case basis. She also said that she would do community outreach – working on drafting a revised leash law, educating dog owners about affordable fence programs and other issues – on a voluntary basis. However, she would like the Town to pay for her to be vaccinated against rabies and would consider doing that as part of a group vaccination with the CVHS or with Liz Fortman, the Town Health Officer, to save money. Bill said the Board is very concerned about animal control, especially dangerous dogs which have actually forced people to move from town.
5. **MOTION: Bill moved to appoint Erika Holm as Animal Control Officer with Moretown Animal Control Officer Shane Grace as backup. Peter seconded. The motion passed.**

### Approval of a Service Reimbursement Ordinance

6. The Board discussed a Service Reimbursement Ordinance that would permit the town to recoup costs from insurance companies when the Fire Department responds to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous materials emergencies involving **NON-Middlesex** residents or Middlesex residents charged with driving under the influence (DUI), excessive speed, careless and negligent driving and other violations relating to said accident.
7. Doug and Jeff said they had reviewed the redrafted ordinance and approved.
8. **MOTION: Mary Alexander moved to adopt the Middlesex Fire Department Service Reimbursement Ordinance. Bill seconded. The motion passed.**

### Other Business

9. **MOTION: Mary Alexander moved to accept Joanne Hull's resignation as Town Auditor because she sold her home in Middlesex and moved to Barre. Seconded. Motion passed.** Bill asked Sarah to write a letter of gratitude to Joanne on the Board's behalf for her years of service.
10. **MOTION: Steve moved to approve Tim Hayward's Driveway Access Permit. Mary Alexander seconded. The motion passed.**
11. **MOTION: Bill moved to appoint Moretown Animal Control Officer Shane Grace as backup ACO at a rate of \$45/first two hours plus \$15/hour after that on the same call and mileage compensation of \$0.53 per mile. Peter seconded. The motion passed.**
12. **MOTION: Peter moved to approve the June 25<sup>th</sup> Select Board Minutes. Steve seconded. The motion passed.**
13. Cindy apprised the Board that Casey Ellison received a bill from lawyer Paul Gilles that included a \$1,000 charge for work allegedly authorized by the Town re: the terminus of Chase Road. Cindy said neither she nor Sarah asked Paul to do work and that all correspondence from Paul on this matter came through Casey who had retained Paul to help resolve this issue. Cindy wrote Casey an email saying the Town would not be paying for that cost.

### Adjournment

14. Mary Skinner adjourned the meeting at 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman  
Select Board Assistant

