

**Select Board Members**

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2013**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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Present: Select Board Chair Peter Hood and Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner, and Steve Martin, Vermont Department of Health nurses Linda Seel and Tara Reill, U32 science teacher Randy Brown, parents Kimberly Jessups, Orsi Callnan, Thea Schwartz, and the Middlesex Robotics Club: Maddie Friend, Jenna Brown, Eva Jessup, Torin Callnan, Wilder Brown, Alec Benedict, Bradley Benedict, Cyrus Jessup, Tzevi Schwartz, Evie Moore, and Waylon Kurtz, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call To Order**

1. Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Middlesex Robotics Club**

2. The Middlesex Robotics Club, a group of elementary students using Legos to develop solutions to natural disasters, presented its project to the Board with a slide show and a brief play. Their idea was to build a "smart bridge" that would elevate according to rising waters, thereby allowing emergency vehicles to cross during floods. Afterwards, the Board watched the students demonstrate their various Lego inventions.

**Vermont Health Department Update**

3. Linda, a public health nurse with a specialty in epidemiology, said she and Tara, a public health nurse with a specialty in immunizations, were visiting various select boards around Washington County to update them on services provided by the Vermont Department of Health such as WIC (Women, Infants and Children). She said 20 Middlesex residents participate in WIC, though there was potential for more because there were ten more people in town who received Medicaid, which would make them income-eligible for the nutrition program.
4. Tara told the Board her division provided free or reduced-cost immunizations for tetanus and pertussis as well as shingles vaccines for those between age 60 and 64. She said she was eager to improve the vaccination rate, despite a recent push to make childhood vaccinations optional.

**Update on 191 and 195 Three Mile Bridge Road**

5. Middlesex contractor Jason Merrill has finished returning the flooded Three Mile Bridge Road properties to grade as part of a FEMA buyout. The sites were inspected by Kate Hammond and Ray Dougherty, representatives from the Vermont Departments of Homeland Security on behalf of FEMA, on Thursday, October 31,<sup>st</sup> and declared suitable, according to Sarah. Subsequently, Karen Mae Smith, grant coordinator for FEMA, received and approved the financial reports, thereby releasing the final reimbursement of funds to the town. The grant is closed.

**Other Business:**

- a. Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of the October 22, 2013, Select Board minutes. The motion passed.
- b. All Orders were signed
- c. The Board directed Sarah to send sympathy cards and flowers to April Farnham, daughter of recently deceased longtime Middlesex Road Crew employee Wayne Wilder. The Board agreed to contribute \$250 to a charity of Wayne's liking.
- d. Correspondence:

**Penny Downen's Letter Complaining about Lister Practices**

- 1 The Board reviewed a November 4 email from French Road resident Penny Downen who complained that the Listers had stepped onto her property for an assessment last spring without prior notification. Peter disputed that the Listers had looked through her windows, as the letter stated, and noted that it would be too costly for the town and the Listers to make appointments to visit every property.
- 2 The Board directed Sarah to write a letter to Penny noting that they had heard her concerns and, in this one case, they would ask the Listers to call her before another visit. However, Peter stressed that he did not want this to become a town-wide policy because it would be too burdensome.

**The Central Vermont Humane Society's 2014 Contract**

1. According to a November 7 letter by Anne Ward, director of operations for CVHS, the animal shelter was changing its fee policy effective January 1, 2014. Instead of charging a flat fee of \$700-\$800 per year for holding strays, the shelter would be charging towns \$100 per dog and \$60 per cat. Last year, according to the letter, CVHS took in three cats and four dogs from Middlesex. The Board agreed that was acceptable and Mary signed the contract.

**VLCT's Notice of Dues Increase**

1. According to a November 1, 2013, letter from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Middlesex's dues for participating with VLCT would rise from \$2,541 for FY 2014 to \$2,750 for FY 2015. The increase included a \$150 "service fee" for towns required to secure their insurance from Vermont Health Connect. Peter asked Sarah to call VLCT and find out what services the town would receive for that cost.

**Adjournment:**

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant