

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
5:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

Present: Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Select Board Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Washington County Sheriff Sam Hill, Deputy Sheriff Bret Meyer and Select Board Assistant, Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order

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

Idling Reduction Policy

2. Paul submitted an Idling Reduction Policy for the Town Highway Department that was drafted by Idle-Free VT. He said the general principles – to reduce idling whenever possible – were worthy goals except that in the winter there were problems with turning off heavy equipment in the cold. Steve agreed and noted that those trucks have to warm up slowly
3. Peter said he could agree to a general policy to limit unnecessary idling, but took exception to the specifics of the policy that limited warm-up idling to no more than 5 minutes for heavy vehicles.
4. Mary pared down the policy to its opening statement, asked Sarah to rewrite it and submit it again at the next Board meeting for approval

Renewing the Town's Contract with the Washington County Sheriff's Department

5. Sam Hill reviewed the results of sheriff safety patrols for 2013 and 2012. Although only 24 motorists were cited in 2013, he said the majority of drivers were stopped for minor infractions and were given warnings, which were not included in his report. In addition, severe winter weather had reduced the need for patrols since people tended not to exceed the speed limit when there were several inches of snow on the ground.
6. Peter said that was okay since just the presence of sheriffs' vehicles had a calming effect on speeding cars.
7. Sam presented two contracts, one for April 1 for June 30, 2014 and one for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. There was approximately \$1,375 left in the FY2014 budget for sheriffs' services until the end of the current fiscal year. Peter asked if the Board wanted to approve allocating \$1,000 more from the town discretionary fund.
8. **MOTION: Steve moved to allocate another \$1,000 from the discretionary fund to the Washington County Sheriff's Department for increased traffic patrols. Mary seconded. The motion passed.**
9. Sam said his rates for traffic control was \$28/hour whereas his department charged @\$45/hour with mileage for other duties. He said his department charges less for traffic because it considers those patrols a community service.

10. **MOTION: Steve moved to approve both contracts with the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Liz seconded. The motion passed. The contracts were signed by the Board and the sheriff.**

Purchase of a New Loader

11. Paul said the Road Crew had tested five loaders to replace the current one which has a rusted cab and is unsafe. He suggested going with a Komatsu that would end up costing the town \$118,289 with trade-in. If the Board approved the purchase, he would receive the loader July 1, 2014.
12. **MOTION: Mary moved to approve purchasing the Komatsu loader from Anderson's Equipment in East Montpelier for \$118,289, financing the purchase with a one-year promissory note. Liz seconded. The motion passed.**
13. **MOTION: Mary moved to approve designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for all incident management in Middlesex. Liz seconded. The motion passed and Peter signed the NIMS agreement as Select Board Chair.**
14. **MOTION: Liz moved to approve four permits allowing Washington Electric Cooperative to remove trees and shrubs in the town's rights of way along Shady Rill Road and Government Hill. Mary seconded. The motion passed and the permits were signed.**
15. **MOTION: Mary moved to approve the March 11, 2014 Select Board minutes. Steve approved. The motion passed.**
16. **MOTION: Mary moved to appoint Jane Dudley to the Wrightsville Recreation Committee. Liz seconded. The motion passed.**

(At 6 p.m. the meeting was interrupted for a public hearing on a proposal to convey conservation easement and development rights on a .68 parcel formerly known as 191 and 195 Three Mile Bridge Road to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The meeting resumed at 6:20)

17. The Board reviewed a draft of the Local Emergency Operations Plan and decided more work was needed. Peter requested that Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Morissette attend the next meeting to provide input on disaster preparation.
18. All orders were signed
19. Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant