

Select Board Members

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, April 8, 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, Rumney School Director Chris McVeigh, Rumney Facilities Committee member Dexter LeFavour, Animal Control Officer Erika Holm, Middlesex Fire Chief Doug Hanson, Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Morissette, Black River Design architect John Rahill and Select Board Assistant, Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order

1. Mary called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Other Business

2. **MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded approving the March 25, 2014 Select Board Minutes. The motion passed.**
3. **MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of the 2014 Annual Financial Plan for Middlesex Town Highways. The motion passed.**
4. The Board considered a letter from New Directions asking to deliver a presentation about its anti-substance abuse programs and agreed to place them on the May 13 agenda.
5. The Board also signed a revised Idling Reduction Policy Road Foreman Paul Cerminara submitted at the March 25, 2014 meeting. (Please see attached.)
6. The Board considered an estimate of \$1,422.34 to replace carpeting in the hallway outside the Town Clerk bathrooms after the septic system froze and backed up. Mary suggested getting another estimate from Morrison & Clarke Flooring in Barre. Peter suggested substituting no-slip rubber tile for the carpet and adding mats that could be easily replaced in case of future floods.
7. The Board also examined a map drafted by Walt Kelley and filed on Slide 41 detailing the "septic system" behind Town Hall. According to the 1994 map, the system consisted of a septic tank and an outflow pipe under the parking lot extending 25 feet to a dry well. Dexter, an engineer who has examined the system in the past, suggested insulating the pipe this summer to prevent freeze ups. In addition, the town should refrain from plowing the lot in the winter.

Rumney School Bond Vote for 2014

8. Chris informed the Board that the School Board was considering another bond to pay for renovations to Rumney School. After a previous bond vote of \$4.5 million failed at the polls last May, the School Board was going back to the drawing board. It hired Black River Design to draw up the architectural specs and now Chris wanted the Select Board's input.
9. Peter said people had complained to him about the cost of the proposed kitchen, roughly \$800,000. He also noted that since the state was no longer kicking in 30% on big

- construction projects for small schools, it would be better for Rumney to do repairs as it went along instead of asking for a 20-year bond on repairs that would only last six-to-eight years.
10. Peter also said that in light of reassessing the town's need for a Red Cross shelter, the School Board should consider adapting Rumney for that use, and budget accordingly.
 11. Chris said School Board Chair Julie Moore and the fire chief had discussed modifying Rumney to be an emergency shelter, including obtaining a generator and building a shower and extra storage for shelter purposes.
 12. Steve asked why the fire station in Welch Park couldn't work as a shelter. It was new, had plenty of space, a shower, a kitchen and a generator on the premises.
 13. Mike said the fire station is an emergency shelter and can be used as such. However, its location and size did not make it the ideal spot for a centralized Red Cross shelter. Considering recent weather patterns, Middlesex can expect to suffer a significant ice storm within the next 10-15 years, Mike said. With power out, temperatures way below freezing and many families to accommodate, the fire station, he said, is insufficient.
 14. Getting back to the school bond vote, Mary said the bottom line was that the \$4.5 million figure was way too high.
 15. Liz, who works in the Rumney kitchen, agreed that the former plans were too costly. However, she said the lack of proper ventilation in the kitchen made it a health hazard and the broken dishwasher could not be replaced because the plumbing was not up to code.
 16. Steve said the bottom line was that the bond failed because it was too high.
 17. Chris said that as for putting money aside, the School Board is trying to do that, noting a recent ballot item to allocate \$28,000 for new bathrooms passed with a wider margin at Town Meeting than did the FY2015 school budget. Dexter said 5% of the budget should be allocated toward improvements.
 18. Peter urged Chris to build consensus with the facilities committee before approaching the public. He also advised against following through with plans to hold a special bond vote in September when a general election was just around the corner in November.
 19. Mary agreed and noted that you only get voters either radically for or against a bond vote when you have a special election.
 20. Chris said he would pass on the Select Board's suggestions to the School Board.

**The 2014 Local Emergency Operations Plan/
Searching for a New Emergency Management Coordinator**

21. Mike reviewed the 2014 Local Emergency Operations Plan and said it was fine, aside from some minor editorial changes. The bigger question was whether the town was prepared to handle a large-scale emergency, such as a devastating ice storm. He urged turning Rumney School into a Red Cross shelter.
22. He suggested bringing in the school, the fire department and the town to address this issue. He also said he did not want to continue as Emergency Management Coordinator, but would stay on while the town found his replacement.
23. **MOTION: Mary moved to approve the 2014 Local Emergency Operations Plan with Mike's changes. Steve seconded. The motion passed.**

The Fire Department's Plans if Flooding Occurs Along Three-Mile Bridge Road

24. Doug distributed his department's Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with spring flooding on Three Mile Bridge Road. (Please see attached.) While Peter praised his efforts to

be proactive, he urged Doug to spread the word about VT-ALERT, a statewide alert system that notifies subscribers of emergencies in their area. Also, the residents of Three Mile Bridge Road should notify the state if they don't receive alerts and water is rising.

Updates from Animal Control Officer Erika Holm

25. Erika updated the Board on her activities as Animal Control Officer since taking the post last summer. The best part of her job has been reuniting dogs with their owners. The hardest part has been trying to prevent bites before they happen by dealing with confrontational dogs.
26. So far, the most challenging case was placing animals from a home with 28 chickens, several ferrets, and a feral cat. In another situation, Erika had to convince the owner of a pitbull mix that had bitten the owner's son, that the best recourse was to put the dog down. Erika drove the animal and the owner to the shelter and sat with the dog while it was undergoing euthanasia.
27. She said she is coordinating with other animal control officers in the area for tips and she will be looking at other animal control ordinances for ideas on how to rewrite Middlesex's.
28. Peter said he wanted the record to reflect how grateful the Board was for Erika's dedication and services. All the other Board members agreed that the town was fortunate to have such a trained and professional ACO as Erika to undertake such a difficult job.

Adjournment

29. Peter declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant