

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board members Peter Hood, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf as well as Mary Just Skinner and Bill Callnan by speakerphone. Treasurer Cindy Carlson. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

CALL TO ORDER/AMENDMENTS

Peter called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. The agenda was amended to include a curb cut approval for Kingsbury Construction on Center Road.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Appointment of Select Board Chair. Peter said he would be happy to continue or happy to step aside if someone else wanted to chair. **MOTION:** Bill moved and Steve seconded reappointing Peter as Chair of the Select Board. The motion passed unanimously by a roll-call vote because two members were on attending via conference call.

Chair Voting Status. **MOTION:** Liz moved to permit the chair to vote. Steve seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Appointment of Vice-Chair. **MOTION:** Liz nominated Mary Just Skinner to Vice-Chair. Peter seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Designation of time and place for Select Board meetings. **MOTION:** Steve moved to designate a starting time of 5 p.m. the first and second Tuesday of each month in the Town Clerk's Office for Select Board Meetings. Liz seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Designation of newspaper of record. **MOTION:** Liz nominated the Times-Argus. Mary seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Appointment of Road Commissioner. **MOTION:** Bill nominated Steve for reappointment to Road Commissioner. Mary seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Appointment to fill Auditor(s) vacancies. As Helen Weed has been the only auditor since Joanne Hull moved out of town in 2013, there have been two vacancies for over a year. Mary suggested putting a note on Front Porch Forum to solicit candidates. Item passed over.

Appointment to fill Budget Committee vacancies. A new law effective July 1, 2014 permits towns to elect at least five members to the budget committee. As there were only two candidates on the 2015 ballot – Bill Dorigan and George Longenecker – the Board needed to appoint at least three more. Barry Bolio and Elias Gardner both submitted letters of interest to the Board after Town Meeting. **MOTION:** Peter moved and Steve seconded appointing Barry and Elias to the Budget Committee. The motion passed with a unanimous roll-call vote. The Board decided to put a note on Front Porch Forum seeking at least one more candidate.

Appointments to the following town positions:

- a) **Zoning Administrator** – Cindy Carlson
- b) **Board of Adjustment** – Charlie Merriman, Doug Lombard, Charlene Bohl. (One remaining vacancy due to Dennis Nealon's resignation.)
- c) **Animal Control Officer** - Erika Holm
- d) **Emergency Management Coordinator** – David Jablonski
- e) **Fire Warden** – Jason Merrill
- f) **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Representative** – Ron Krauth
- g) **Conservation Commission.** (Passed over.)
- h) **Wrightsville Beach Management Representative** – Jane Dudley
- i) **Recreation Committee** (To be discussed at March 24, 2015 Select Board Meeting)

MOTION: Bill moved and Liz seconded approval of the nominees to the above positions. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Granting the Select Board Assistant authority to sign Excess Truck Weight Permits. **MOTION:** Steve moved, Liz seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Update on Ford F550 Repairs.

The Board reviewed Road Foreman Paul Cerminara's analysis of the costs in replacing the motor of the 2009 Ford F550 (-\$16,000) vs. trading in as is (+\$5,000) or trading in a year from now with a repaired motor and possibly new transmission. (+\$20,000-\$27,000). Steve said he could possibly pull some money from the highway budget to pay for the repairs. Peter recommended repairing the truck ASAP because it was a waste to let it sit unused. The Board agreed it would be better to repair the truck and use it for two years to better stretch the payments and investment. Peter suggested removing the plow when sanding to increase the life of the truck. Peter authorized Paul to have the motor replaced and when the motor was off, the mechanics should check the transmission. If they felt it needed repair, Paul should check with the board first before a new transmission was installed. Afterward, the Board will decide how to pay for it.

Manosh Tax Payments

Cindy told the Board that after purchasing the Christian property at a 2013 tax sale and then receiving the tax collector's deed when Christian failed to redeem a year later, new owners Howard and Nick Manosh have refused to pay the 2013 taxes approaching \$15,000 on the claim that it was not made clear to them at the tax sale that they would be responsible for those payments. The confusion apparently stems from the Warning drafted by attorney Robert Halpert who was handling the sale. The Warning stated that the sale was for the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 taxes on the Christian property. Though Rob was referring to the fact that the taxes for 2011 were divided into payments that spanned 2011 and 2012 (and ditto for 2012/2013), the Manoshes interpreted that to mean the tax sale included the 2013 payments as well even though the Christian property was not delinquent on its 2013 taxes when the sale occurred. Manosh said he was willing to pay half the 2013 taxes, but no more. Cindy said the taxes are now in such arrears that she could put the property up for tax sale again to collect the unpaid 2013 taxes. The Board supported her position and rejected Manoshes' offer of half payment.

Update on Land Behind Town Hall

The Board reviewed a 2007 environmental study of the land behind town hall. No alternative septic site was located so the Board recommended acting Johnson Company of Montpelier, which did the study, to locate an alternative septic site before the land is put up for sale. Peter noted the alternative site must include capacity for the bathroom in the old fire station.

Town Hall Septic Situation

The Board discussed the apparent freezing and overflow of the septic system during a Town Hall party of 30+ people on March 7th and whether to close the hall to parties in the future. Cindy recommended letting Weight Watchers stay on Wednesdays but to otherwise close Town Hall due to the fragile system. The Board agreed to take up the matter at the March 24, 2015 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Bill moved and Mary seconded approval of the February 24, 2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote with Liz and Steve abstaining.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded approval of the February 10, 2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote with Bill abstaining.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed a map and memo from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission concerning a land-use map for Middlesex.

The Board reviewed an email from Laura Ranker, emergency management planner from the CVRPC, noting that one Select Board member needed to take "executive training" in order to certify the town's annual Local Emergency Operation Plan. Peter volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.