

Select Board Members

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

MINUTES

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

5:00 PM

Middlesex Town Clerk's Office

5 Church Street

Middlesex, Vermont 05602

(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, and Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02. The agenda was not amended.

Leland Farm Road Update

In response to Scott Skinner's assertion during the April 26, 2016, Select Board meeting that there were no plans to upgrade the other end of Leland Farm Road from Class 4 to Class 3, subsequent research into the 2009 Board minutes showed that, in fact, developer Owen Ward had never sought that upgrade. Peter said this still raises questions about how abutting landowners may maintain Class 4 roads and what happens if a Class 4 road falls into disrepair and a non-adjacent landowner wishes to mow it. The Board agreed that the 2003 Class 4 Roads and Trails policy needs to address this issue and put it on the agenda for the May 24 Select Board meeting.

Reviewing Financials

The Board reviewed the latest financials with Cindy and recommended that the Board meet with the Treasurer for such reviews every quarter.

Drug & Alcohol Policy for CDL Drivers

The Board reviewed VLCT's model Drug & Alcohol Policy for municipal CDL drivers and agreed that the 18-page policy was unnecessarily detailed and, perhaps, not applicable to the Town's Highway Department which has only four CDL holders and no human resources department to oversee its implementation. The Board felt that the current Personnel Policy sufficiently made it clear that no town employee could arrive to work under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and that CDL holders would be required to undergo pre-employment and random drug and alcohol testing in accordance with DOT rules and procedures.

As a result, the Board suggested that a letter be written to VLCT asking for clarification of the following points: Who drafted the model policy? Will the Town's insurance rate be adopted if the policy is not adopted? The current Drug & Alcohol Policy refers to the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Has that been revised/updated? If so, what is the new law?

Car Cemetery and Town Hall Painting

The Board decided to let the Middlesex Cemetery Commission deal with sprucing up the Carr Cemetery it oversees North Branch, Carr and the Village cemeteries. Then Board reviewed a proposal from Dick Picard to paint the Church Street side of Town hall and the side of the building by the stairs this summer for \$2,000 including paint, primer, brushes and sand paper.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving Dick Picard's proposal to paint Town Hall for \$2,000. The motion passed.

Select Board Goals for 2016

The Board set the following goals for the upcoming year:

- * Find a solution/use for the old firehouse behind Town Hall
- * Hold public hearings for revised zoning regulations with an eye toward a town-wide vote during November's General Election
- * Update the Town's Highway Ordinance
- * Update the Town's Drug & Alcohol Policy for employees
- * Discontinue Town roads that are essentially private driveways
- * Move the Town Clerk's Office upstairs or perhaps to another location.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Annual Financial Plan for 2017 was not ready so the Board will address it at its next meeting.

Mike Pelchar's driveway permit was signed.

Cindy signed the ACS contract.

Despite a change in state law that no longer required town service officers, the Board agreed that it was nice to have a contact person in Middlesex for those in need of emergency help. The Board agreed to keep Liz as Town Service Officer.

The Board discussed whether to apply for a VTrans grant to install pedestrian and/or bike paths. But since the grant would apply only to Town roads and not US 2 or VT Route 12, it did not really apply to Middlesex which is mostly made up of gravel roads.

All Orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant