

**Select Board Members**

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

**MINUTES**

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**

**5:00 PM**

**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**

**5 Church Street**

**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**

**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Cindy Carlson. Listers Eric Young and Dick Alderman. Dan Currier, GIS manager of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Planning Commission Chair John Krezinski, and Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant.

**Call to Order**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed Dick. There were no amendments.

**Error and Omissions: Troy Polo Property**

Dick told the Board that an "obvious error" had been made on the assessment of Troy Polo's property at 28 French Road. The property had been appraised at \$53,000 in the fall of 2015 by a professional appraiser conducting a town-wide reassessment. Unfortunately, the report did not take into account that the well and septic belonged to the land owner Ivan Niles and that Polo owned only the mobile home. With that and a few other defects the Listers discovered this summer, the appraisal came to \$39,100. Since the 2016 grievance period had passed and the tax bills had been sent, the Listers asked the Board to approve the new value - which is permitted under 32 VSA §4261 when an obvious error is found after the grievance period has passed. Peter noted that the Listers should remember to add the value of the well and septic to Niles's property next year. Dick agreed.

Mary said the Town Health Officer should be contacted about the apparently unfinished septic system if Polo is residing there.

**MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded granting permission to lowering Troy Polo's property value for 2016 to \$39,100 due to "errors and omissions." The motion passed.**

**Appointing Troy Sumner to the Planning Commission**

Despite several posted notices, Front Porch Forum posts and one newspaper ad, new resident Troy Sumner was the only person to volunteer to serve on the Planning Commission as Thea Schwartz's replacement until the March 2017 Town Meeting. Steve said he has worked with Troy and recommended him highly for the position.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Bill seconded appointing Troy Sumner to the Planning Commission to replace Thea Schwartz until the March 2017 Town Meeting. The motion passed.**

### **Hiring Bonnie Batchelder, CPA, to conduct the FY2016 Audit**

After longtime auditor William Yacavoni announced his retirement this summer, Cindy said she contacted the CPA firms chosen by the Select Board to replace him. Two firms, Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, and Fothergill Segale & Valley submitted bids between \$10,000 and \$11,500 to conduct the audit. Bonnie Batchelder submitted a bid of \$6,950 plus a schedule of fees for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year, should the Select Board keep her on. Peter said all three firms were qualified. Mary and Peter agreed that Bonnie has a reputation for being pleasant to work with.

**MOTION: Mary moved and Bill seconded hiring Bonnie K. Batchelder, CPA, to conduct the 2016 audit for \$6,950. The motion passed.**

### **Update on Zoning Regulation Adoption Options**

In light of an approaching vote on amendments to the Town's Land Use Regulations, Sarah apprised the Board that she had researched the pertinent statute regarding adoption of town bylaws (24VSA§4442) and consulted the town attorney regarding adoption procedures. In short, the Select Board had two options 1) pass the amendments at a duly warned Select Board hearing after the statutorily mandated public hearings or 2) put the revised regulations up for a town-wide vote at either the regular Town Meeting in March or a Special Town Meeting. If the Board chose the latter in an attempt to get the question before the voters on the November General Election ballot, then it would have to warn the Special Town Meeting no later than October 7, 2016. Peter advised waiting until that night's hearing on the zoning regulation revisions to see if any substantive issues were brought forward that would necessitate another public hearing and, therefore, preclude a Special Town Meeting vote in November.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Update on gathering speed data: Dan said the CVRPC could make speed counters available to the town at no charge. The counters can gather data on vehicle speed, commuting hours, and types of vehicles (including overweight trucks) travelling Middlesex roads in a one-week period. The sheriffs can use that data to most effectively crack down on speeders. The counters will be available in a few weeks.

Memo from Mitch Osiecki re: Town Rec Area latrine maintenance. The Board discussed Mitch's memo regarding the inspection, pumping and maintenance of the latrine in the small wooden building by the tennis courts near Rumney School. Peter said he didn't see the need to hire an engineer, that he would inspect the latrine himself for any cracks in the cement. He would then bring his findings to the Board to decide whether to close the latrine permanently or at certain times of the year.

Dan outlined the benefits of the Better Roads grant of \$4,000 that required an \$800 "in kind" contribution from the Town in the form Road Crew assistance inventorying the Town's roads to look for erosion. The project would help fulfill the initial steps of mandatory legislation requiring Vermont towns to devise engineering plans to mitigate

runoff from their roads. He said the work would be completed in December and the Town would not be committed beyond that.

**MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the Better Roads Grant of \$4,000 with a maximum in-kind match from the Town of \$800 worth of time and/or labor from the Road Crew. The motion passed. Peter signed the grant.**

The Board considered an August 22, 2016, request from the Montpelier Vermont Veterans Council for \$200 to place 262 flags and 5 markers on veterans' graves in Middlesex this year. While the Town had awarded the same group \$250 at the 2016 Town Meeting, this money was needed "due to the escalating costs of flags and markers," according to the request. Liz proposed giving them \$150; Steve said the Board might as well add another \$50 and grant the full request.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Bill seconded giving the Montpelier Vermont Veterans Council \$200 for flags and markers on veterans' graves in Middlesex. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote with Mary voting no because she felt \$150 was more reasonable.**

**MOTION: Mary moved and Bill seconded approval of the August 23, 2016 Select Board Minutes. The motion passed with Steve abstaining.**

All orders were signed.

After over two decades of service, Bill announced that he would be stepping off the Board changing his official residence to Florida after October 30, 2016. Peter said he wanted to personally thank Bill for all his years of hard work and dedication, that the Board would especially miss his financial skills during budget time.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant