

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Mary Just Skinner,
Vice Chair
 Phil Hyjek
 Steve Martin
 Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Peter Hood, Mary Just Skinner, Steve Martin Liz Scharf, Phil Hyjek, Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, Paul Otenti, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Fire Department Treasurer Bob Bowers, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order, Amendments, Guests

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and congratulated Steve, Phil and Dorinda on their elections at Town Meeting. There were no amendments

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Select Board Chair

MOTION: Mary moved that Peter be named Chair with voting privileges. Steve seconded. The motion passed.

Select Board Vice-Chair

MOTION: Liz nominated Mary as Vice Chair. Phil Hyjek seconded. The motion passed.

Setting Time/Place/Days of Select Board Meetings

MOTION: Steve moved that regularly scheduled Select Board meetings be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM in the Town Clerk's Office. Mary seconded. The motion passed.

The Newspaper of Record for Postings

MOTION: Mary moved the Times-Argus as the paper of record; Phil seconded. The motion passed.

Road Commissioner

MOTION: Mary moved and Peter seconded Steve Martin to continue as Road Commissioner. Peter noted that it is valuable for the Road Commissioner to also be a Select Board member and that Steve had done an admirable job. Steve accepted the nomination. The motion passed.

Board of Adjustment Appointments

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded reappointing the following people to the Zoning Board of Adjustment: Charlene Bohl, Daniel Crisp, John Demeter, Roger Hirt and Phil Hyjek. The motion passed with Phil abstaining.

Animal Control Officer

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded reappointing Erika Holm as Animal Control Officer. The motion passed.

Emergency Management Coordinator

Sarah apprised the Board that current Emergency Management Coordinator David Jablonski wished to step down for personal reasons. Paul Otenti, who recently purchased land on Zdon Road where he planned to build a retirement home, told the Board he was interested in the volunteer position. As former full-time firefighter, he had been trained to deal with hazardous materials which could be a problem for Middlesex via the railroad or I-89. He was also an OSHA trainer and an emergency planner and has received multiple levels of FEMA certification to satisfy the requirements of the Local Emergency Operations Plan which the Board must pass by May 1. The only problem as he saw it would be his temporary location in Williston while the house on Zdon Road was being built. The Board did not see that as a problem especially, Peter said, if Paul can put together a team in Middlesex to handle emergencies before he arrives.

MOTION: Liz nominated and Phil seconded appointing Paul Otenti as the new Emergency Management Coordinator to replace David Jablonski. The motion passed and the Board thanked David for her service.

Town Service Officer

MOTION: Phil nominated Liz to be Town Service Officer; Steve seconded. The motion passed.

Wrightsville Beach Management Representative

MOTION: Liz nominated Jane Dudley for Wrightsville Beach Management Representative. Steve seconded. The motion passed.

Granting the Select Board Assistant authority to sign Excess Truck Weight Permits.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded granting the Select Board Assistant authority to sign Excess Weight Permits. The motion passed.

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Approving the Warning for a May 2, 2017 Special Town Meeting for Tanker Purchase

Although voters approved the purchase of a refurbished tanker for the MVFD at the March 7, 2017 Town Meeting, the Board learned shortly thereafter that because the tanker did not fall under the category of highway maintenance and because the financing extended beyond five years, under 24 VSA §1786a (c), the question needed to be treated like a bond vote with certain posting requirements and a paper ballot. This would require a "Special Town Meeting" no more than 40 days, no fewer than 30 days, from the Warning's approval. Peter apologized to the MVFD for the delay but said the good news was that there was "tremendous support" at Town Meeting for the tanker.

MOTION: Mary moved that the public interest or necessity demands that the Town purchase the refurbished tanker, and that the cost of the same will be too great to be paid out of ordinary annual income and revenue, such that the financing of the purchase should be submitted to the voters at a special town meeting. Therefore, a Special Town Meeting should be held on May 2, 2017, to put the following question to the voters:

“Shall the Town voters authorize the purchase of a refurbished tanker for the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department in the fiscal year 2017-2018 for an amount not to exceed \$120,000 and to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?” (24 V.S.A. §1786a(c)) Action likely

Phil seconded. The motion passed and the Select Board signed the Warning.

Discussion of Downgrading Merritt, Warren, Bolio, Colby and the end of Chase Roads

Paul asked the Board to clarify if it wanted to pursue downgrading the above roads to trails or to Class 4 or throw them up altogether. If they are downgraded to Class 4, he said, the Highway Department will still have to grade them once a year at least, though they will not have to be snowplowed, and they will come under the state’s Clean Water Bill. This won’t be the case if they are made trails or eliminated completely since they are essentially driveways serving only one home each. Peter said that downgrading from Class 3 to 4 will soften the blow for these homeowners and Mary said further downgrade could affect their property values. Liz noted that there are five houses on her private road and they do not benefit from Town services. Moreover, there are dozens of private roads around town who are in the same boat. The Board discussed the financial impact of incorporating these roads in the engineering study needed for the Clean Water Bill and asked Paul to investigate the costs further. Steve said even the state doesn’t have a handle on the costs of the engineering studies. Paul agreed to look into the costs and report to the Board later.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Municipal Energy Survey.

The Board reviewed the Planning Commission’s responses to the survey and agreed with their answers.

Recommitment to Digitally Indexing Land Records.

In January 2016, the Board agreed to index the Town’s land records from 1976 to 2011 in order to modernize and free up space in the small vault by removing the card catalog. The upgrade would be paid for by the Town’s restoration fund and a note that would be taken out after July 1, 2016, payment on which would be due after July 1, 2017. In May 2016, then Treasurer Cindy Carlson signed the contract with ACS, a division of Xerox, to perform the work, noting it was to begin after July 1, 2016. However, in the meantime, Xerox’s salesman, Bob Gerenscer left his job and Sarah said that despite calling Xerox and asking that the work begin last fall, there was no response until a new salesman came on board in December. By then, the Xerox division had reconfigured as Conduent and the Board, in budgeting for 2017-18, omitted paying the note since no note had been taken to pay for the digitizing since no digitizing had begun. Now, Sarah said, Conduent questioned whether the Board was still interested in the project and said the original quote of the contract \$42,983.49 was still good, according to a March 16, 2017 email from Sue Peterson Transaction Processing Manager at Conduent. Sarah asked the Board what it wanted to do. Peter said if Conduent was nervous about payment, then the work could start immediately with \$10,000 paid for from the Restoration Fund and the balance coming after July 1, 2017 with a note that would be payable after July 1, 2018.

John Krezinski’s Resignation from the Planning Commission

Steve, a member of the PC, explained that John was stepping down for personal reasons. The Board praised John for his diligent work on the zoning regulations and many other thorny issues that had come before the Commission in his tenure.

MOTION: Steve moved to regretfully accept John’s resignation from the Planning Commission. Liz seconded. The motion passed and the Board thanked John for her service.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the February 28, 2017 and March 2, 2017 Special Meeting Select Board minutes. The motion passed with Liz abstaining because she was not at the March 2nd meeting. Motion Steve Moved, Phil and liz abstained on the second.

Peter signed David Johnston’s driveway permit

All Orders were signed.

Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki discussed plans for the Shady Rill Park, the Town fields and other parks around Middlesex in terms of sending out for mowing bids. Dorinda noted that \$3,215 had been spent on mowing the bandstand and field from July to November alone of last year. Peter noted that while \$5,000 was budgeted for Shady Rill park, that had to cover other costs as well as mowing. The Board encouraged Mitch to work with Nicom to fill in the cracks on the tennis courts; Mitch said he hoped to bring in pickleball and perhaps define an area for batting practice.

Dorinda asked for clarification re: the \$57, 724 that was not covered by state grants for the Shady Rill resurfacing, specifically what funds it should be drawn from Steve said he would talk to Patti.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

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