

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

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:** Members Phil Hyjek and Liz Scharf and Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Paul Otenti, Nancy Rice and Amy Whitehorne. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments**

Mary called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. The agenda was amended to include an item authorizing one Select Board member to sign the orders at this meeting because, while there was quorum, there were not three signatories at the meeting.

**Authorizing Liz Scharf to be the Signatory on the September 12, 2017, Orders**

**MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded granting Liz the authority to “examine and allow claims against the town for town expenses and draw orders for such claims to the party entitled to payment” for this meeting only, per 24 V.S.A. §1623.** The motion passed and Liz reviewed and signed the Orders.

**Extending the Highway Department's Turn-Around on Zdon Road**

Historically, the Highway Department has negotiated a sketchy turn-around for the Town plow at the end of Zdon Road. Plows have twice been stuck there, Paul Cerminara told the Board. Now that Paul Otenti and Nancy Rice are building a house with a driveway about 600 feet from the current turn around, Paul Cerminara asked the Board to consider moving the turn around there. This would require some upgrading of that part of Zdon Road, which is currently a legal trail. He said this would be for winter purposes only and he was not asking that the road be permanently upgraded to Class 3. Mary asked what the owners wanted. Paul Otenti said he and Nancy definitely did not want it permanently upgraded to Class 3. Phil clarified that moving the turn-around was nothing more than a safety issue. Paul Cerminara confirmed this and suggested Board members inspect the road first hand. Mary suggested checking with Road Commissioner Steve Martin who is also a Select Board member. The Board agreed and will revisit the issue at the regularly scheduled meeting on October 10, 2017. Paul Cerminara, Paul Otenti and Nancy Rice left the meeting.

**Financing Period for the New MVFD Tanker**

Voters having approved financing the new MVFD Tanker for up to 10 years by Special Election last spring, Dorinda asked the Board if it wanted to take out a one-year note or one for 10 years. Community Bank was offering interest of 1.85% on the one-year note and 3.10% on the ten, but the deadline to accept was 24 hours away. Mary said the Board has historically gone with one-year notes and saw no reason to change, especially since the Board was working with a bare quorum. She suggested sticking with the one-year note this year, and then revisiting the issue in July of 2018. The Board agreed and Dorinda said she would bring a note to sign at the September 26, 2017 meeting. Dorinda noted that the Town could not hold more than \$5 million in debt in order to qualify for this note. Mary asked for a report on the Town's debt. Dorinda said she would distribute one at the next meeting.

**Appointing Amy Whitehorne to Fill Lister Vacancy**

Amy, who is a licensed attorney with a background in education, labor, and civil rights law, submitted a cover letter and resume to the Board in her request to be appointed to the Lister position that has been vacant since Town Meeting. She said she met with current lister Dick Alderman and discussed the position.

Phil noted that the Board was investigating the possibility of paying for a professional appraiser who would report to the Board of Listers. This would reduce the actual work listers do for preparing the Grand List. He said the issue was “long-term sustainability.” Fortunately, having just finished a town-wide reappraisal, there won't be as much work

next spring, he said. Mary noted the Town pays an hourly rate to the listers, with a cap, but would certainly compensate for any classes, etc.

**MOTION: Phil moved and Liz seconded nominating Amy Whitehorne Town Lister until the March 2018 Town Meeting.** The motion passed.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board passed over approving the August 15, 2017, minutes because there wasn't a quorum.

Liz signed the Orders.

The Board reviewed correspondence from VLCT regarding the annual business meeting. The Board needs to designate a delegate by September 27 so that delegate can vote at the October 4, 2017 meeting.

DRAFT