

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

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

MINUTES

**Present:** Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin, Liz Scharf and Phil Hyjek. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Attorney Ron Shems and Zoning Administrator/Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki. Budget Committee members Bill Dorigan, George Longenecker, and Elias Gardner, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

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

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The agenda was amended to include discussions about NEMRC and Peter's meeting with the VT Secretary of Human Services.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded entering into Executive Session to discuss legal action pending against the Town and to include Dorinda, Ron and Mitch.** The motion passed and at 5:03 Board entered Executive Session.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded exiting Executive Session.** The motion passed and the Board resumed its public meeting at 5:27 p.m.

**FY 2018-19 Budget Workshop  
Zoning and Recreation Budget Request**

Mitch submitted his budget proposal to maintain and improve the Town's recreation fields, to also provide portlets at the bandstand and the Walt Kelly Park for a total of \$9,320. In addition, he estimated that dues to professional organizations, the Learn to Swim Program and new tennis equipment added another \$1,125. The Board discussed why he had eliminated mowing at the FEMA park on Three Mile Bridge Road and decided that perhaps it could be included in the twice-annual roadside mowing done for the Highway Department, instead of incorporated in the mowing bids. The Board also decided that only one portlet was needed for the Walter Kelley Park. As for resurfacing the tennis courts, Mitch said he was looking for grants since regular sealants used in parking lots would not be applicable.

Hours: Mitch expected he would average 6 hours per week as Recreation Director and 5-8 hours per week as Zoning Administrator. Most of those hours for both jobs would be from the early spring through late fall. During downtimes, Mitch said he is addressing a backlog of certificates of occupancy.

**VLCT and CVRPC Dues, Scheduling and East Hill Road Mud Mitigation**

The Board reviewed the FY18-19 dues for VLCT (\$3,017, an increase of @ 2.4%) and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (\$1,956.03).

The Board agreed to have one extended meeting in December on the 19<sup>th</sup>, thereby eliminating the regularly scheduled meetings on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The budget would be finalized in January 2018.

Bill asked about mud mitigation on East Hill Road, noting that despite it being scheduled for 2018, it had been postponed so the Highway Department could concentrate on regular summer maintenance. Bill said religiously keeping budget increases under a certain percentage has its downsides, including putting off important projects like East Hill.

Steve said the problem is not so much money as time. After discovering through the bid process that hiring outside firms to take on big projects such as repaving Shady Rill Road was astronomically expensive, he and the Road Foreman decided to use the road crew for those jobs. As a result, much of the normal road maintenance such as replacing culverts and brush hogging had been put off. Those projects needed to be addressed in the summer of 2018.

Peter said there were two options: put more money in the highway budget to hire summer help or advertise for bids to do the East Hill Road mud mitigation project and put that on the 2018 Town Warning as a special article. Bill said he would prefer it as a special article.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Approval of Quit Claim Deeds of Lease Lands for TPL**

The Board reviewed two deeds drafted by Deppman Law for the Trust for Public Land in which the Town would quit claim various "lease lands" that became defunct when the State imposed property taxes. As the accompanying letter from Benj Deppman noted, these leases are on lands being purchased by the Trust for Public Land. Quitting claim to these leases removes a "title issue" and the remote risk that the landlord, i.e. the Town, could evict owners from their property.

Sarah also relayed to the Board a conversation with Kate Wanner from the TPL who said the lands pertinent to the Quit Claim deeds were part of the Timbervest property on Hunger Mountain in Middlesex and Worcester that has been up for sale since 2016. TPL plans to purchase the 1,766 acres in December and then transfer them to the State of Vermont to merge with the C.C. Putnam State Forest. Likely grant funding for the project disappeared at the end of 2016. However, TPL is hopeful that a FY2019 Forest Legacy grant will cover the purchase.

**MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded authorizing Peter to sign two deeds forever quit claiming lease rights on several parcels to The Trust for Public Land.** The motion passed and Peter signed the deeds. George, Bill and Elias left the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the November 14, Select Board meeting minutes.** The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

All Orders were signed.

Phil relayed his discussions with NEMRC about upgrading to the cloud which can be done for \$10/month/user. There would be no additional fees. This would allow Dorinda to access NEMRC from home. Phil also contacted RB Tech and reiterated that the Town was not interested in TeamViewer and would like the invoices to stop. As an interim solution, Phil suggested GoToMyPc for remote access which would cost \$20/month per one user or \$24/month for multiple users. NEMRC likes that as well. There's no contract and it would meet the Town's standards.

Peter suggested going to NEMRC's cloud-based program right away. He said he would like remote access as well to look at budget reports. He wondered if there was a report-writing function. That way, the Town wouldn't need a separate remote access program. The Board asked that this issue be placed on the next agenda.

Peter discussed his meeting earlier in the day with Al Gobeille, Secretary Vermont Agency of Human Services, and Dawn O'Toole from the same department regarding the "temporary secure residential facility" on US Route 2 that former Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding promised would be removed in January 2018. The state is not ready to remove the facility, Peter said, though Gobeille's department must deliver a report to the Legislature on prospects for new locations by January 15 with a solution by May. Interesting note: the FEMA funds financing the facility were provided on the stipulation that it be temporary. Should the facility become permanent, the State will be required to repay FEMA \$2.1 million. Peter said Gobeille did not know when that deadline would be. Peter asked that representatives from Human Services be invited to the January 23, 2018 meeting to provide an update.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence from Washington County and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District regarding FY 18-19 budget talks.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant

ABOVE MINUTES APPROVED DECEMBER 19, 2017

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PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

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MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

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STEVEN MARTIN

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ELIZABETH SCHARF

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PHILIP HYJEK

DRAFT