

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Peter O. Hood, Members Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Planning Commission Member Sandy Levine. Sue Bettman, recording for ORCA, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed Sandy and Sue.

Approving the PC's Request for Consultants on 2019 Town Plan

Since the 2013 Town Plan expired last year, Sandy said the Town has been denied grants and cannot update zoning regulations until a new one is passed. In addition, because the plan has already expired, it cannot simply be readopted. Also, the plan must incorporate new state requirements. Therefore, in order to put forth a compliant plan, the PC is seeking the assistance of consultants. Four were invited to submit bids. Two did. The most affordable - at about \$4,000-\$6,000 - was Cathyann LaRose from South Burlington. In order to expedite the process, Sandy said the MPC wanted to know if the Board could appropriate \$4,000 from its discretionary fund to pay for the consultant in this fiscal year and then add a line item of \$2,000 for consultation services to the FY2020 MPC budget.

Peter said the Board finalized the proposed FY2020 budget at the last Select Board meeting and was not inclined to vote to change it. He expressed skepticism about the value of a consultant and asked what the MPC hoped to gain from hiring one. Sandy said the Commission has been working on a Town Plan for some time with no result; they wanted a plan they could present to voters in four months so the Town could apply for grants in the fall. Liz noted the MPC still had \$2,000 in its account for FY19 and asked Sandy if the MPC could anticipate more expenses from now until the end of the fiscal year. Sandy said maybe copies, etc. Liz said that would amount to, at most, \$500. Therefore, the MPC could designate the remaining \$1,500 for consultants even though only \$500 had been budgeted for that. The Board agreed not to alter the proposed FY2020 budget and discussed letting the MPC rack up an average of \$2,500 for this year which would be made up with allocations from the Board's discretionary fund.

Steve asked Sandy about where the MPC was with the Survey Monkey it posted on Front Porch Forum last year asking for input from Middlesex property owners about the Town's direction. Sandy said about 250 people responded and their answers would be incorporated in compiling the Town Plan, but the MPC was not going mail paper surveys as originally planned. Steve said that was a "grievous error" and, speaking as a former MPC Chair, he hoped that the Commission would place more emphasis on the survey results.

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded allowing the MPC to incur a deficit in its FY19 budget of \$2,500 to pay for professional consultation on the Town Plan. The motion passed.

The Board discussed who should authorize a contract with the consultant and agreed the MPC could negotiate, but that the head of the legislative body, i.e. the Select Board Chair, should sign. Sandy left the meeting.

The 2018 Select Board Report

The Board reviewed a draft of the 2018 Select Board report and asked Phil to write an addendum about the FY2020 budget. Peter asked that it be placed at the beginning of the report. The Board agreed there should be mention of future expenses such as buying a new grader and updating/moving the Town Clerk's Office.

Approving the Warning for the March 5, 2019 Town Meeting

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the Warning for the March 5, 2019 Town Meeting. The motion passed and all Board members present signed the Warning.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed financials for the month. Dorinda apprised them of highway department spending. Peter said Bourne's would be supplying fuel for Welch Park. There was no action.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the January 8, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

All orders were signed.

Due to a Warned Special School Meeting of the new Washington Central Unified Union School District on February 19, 2019 and the March 5th Town Meeting - both of which conflict with regularly scheduled Select Board meetings - the Board rescheduled its upcoming meetings to the following: February 5th at 5:00 PM, February 26th at 5 PM, March 12 at 4:30 PM and March 26th at 5 PM.

Liz updated the Board about the recent Emergency Management Committee meeting and efforts to designate Rumney School as an emergency shelter.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2019.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

n/a
MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF

4:15 PM

JANUARY 23, 2019