

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Peter O. Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Phil Hyjek, Liz Scharf and, by speakerphone, Steve Martin, who is also Road Commissioner. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Sue Bettmann filming for ORCA and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The agenda was amended to include the Treasurer/Delinquent Tax Collector announcement re: 13 Rich Road up for tax sale.

Approving the 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage

The Board reviewed the 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage, which was unchanged from the previous 2019 Certificate.

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage. The motion passed and the certificate was signed by those present.

Approving the Warning for the March 3, 2020 Town Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft Warning for the March 3, 2020 Town Meeting and discussed whether to include an Article asking Town voters to authorize expending up to \$275,000, financed over ten years, to purchase a new Town grader. Peter said he discussed this with the Road Foreman who said if a new grader is not purchased, the current grader, which is about 24-years old, will need to have the connections to the mow deck repaired in the upcoming fiscal year. They are loose and that causes some of the wash boarding on the dirt roads. Phil wondered if the Town spends \$20,000 on repairs, could it recoup some of that cost in a future trade? Steve said the Town would recoup a percentage, though how much is impossible at this point to determine. Peter said in a worse-case scenario, if the current grader breaks down, the Town could rent a grader since they're readily available. Mary asked how much that would cost monthly; Steve said \$8,000/month. Dorinda said if the Town approved a proposed article such as this, the first principle payment would be \$25,000 with an additional interest tacked on the first year of \$10,000, though that would come out of the 2021-22 budget. Liz said maybe the financing should be explained to the voters, unless the current grader could last another year. Dorinda noted actually that would be 18 months. Peter said the good news is that the grader's oil is regularly checked and it's good. The transmission is good and so are the tires. Steve said with all the other proposed budget expenditures, he'd like to push this purchase out another year. The Board agreed and removed the proposed article from the Warning.

As for an article concerning the MVFD, Phil said he received legal counsel on that matter which he would share with the Board at an Executive Session. Dorinda noted that the proposed Special Articles alone equaled \$73,319, a 14.16% increase from last year.

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the March 3, 2020 Middlesex Town Meeting Warning as drafted. The motion passed and those present signed the Warning.

Treasurer's Report – Planned Tax Sale of 13 Rich Road

As current Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Dorinda informed the Board that she planned to put up 13 Rich Road for tax sale to recoup \$1,927.74 of unpaid delinquent taxes, penalties and interest owed the Town from the 2016, 2017 and 2018 tax years. She advised that if no one buys the parcel - which might be possible considering it's in a flood plain - it might end up as Town property. Still, this needs to be removed from the tax rolls so the Town is not on the hook for the education portion of 13 Rich Road's bill. The Board agreed the tax sale should go forward even if this parcel ends up being Town property.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the January 2, 2020, Select Board Minutes. The motion passed. Those present signed the minutes.

All orders were signed.

The Board signed the Personnel Policy for Town employees it revised at the January 7, 2020 meeting.

Executive Session - Motion Phil moved and Mary seconded entering Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1): *confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body*. The motion passed. Dorinda, Sue and Sarah left the meeting.

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:43 PM. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:11 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by 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 4, 2020.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF