

**Select Board Members**

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

MINUTES  
**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2020, 2020**  
**5:00 PM**  
**HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

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**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin, Phil Hyjek and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, Collector of Delinquent Taxes Dave Smith. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

**Waiving Penalties and Interest for Late 2019 Tax Payments until August 2020**

The Board considered provisions under S.344, signed into law May 13, 2020, which grants Vermont Select Boards the ability to delay, decrease or even waive penalties and interest on late municipal and statewide education property taxes until January 1, 2021. Dorinda has been suspending the 0.5% interest on late payments since March.

Dorinda suggested the Board stress this waiver should be only for 2019 tax bills and that it extend for six months, March of 2020 through the end of August 2020. The Board can revisit this order in August when COVID-19 conditions may have changed. Without such clarification, there would be no reason for anyone to pay their 2020 taxes. Mary agreed.

**MOTION:** Liz moved and Steve seconded waiving all penalties and interest for late and/or unpaid 2019 municipal and statewide property taxes collected by the Town of Middlesex retroactively from March of 2020 until the end of August of 2020, whereupon the Select Board may revisit the provisions of S.344 allowing municipalities to waive penalties and interest until January 1, 2021 due to COVID-19. The motion passed.

Dorinda noted that, as Treasurer, she still needs to issue a warrant to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes within 15 days of the final due date – May 20, 2020 – and that the Collector of Delinquent Taxes still must notify late payers that they are delinquent. Dave said he would include a letter explaining the Select Board's vote and how that will affect recipients of the letter.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM.

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE REMOTELY APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON JUNE 2, 2020.

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PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

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MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

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PHILIP HYJEK

5:00 PM

MAY 21, 2020

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STEVEN MARTIN

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ELIZABETH SCHARF

DRAFT

5:00 PM

MAY 21, 2020