

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Steve Martin, Vice
Chair
 Randy Drury
 Phil Hyjek
 Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
5:00 PM
Tuesday, May 31, 2022
REMOTE BY ZOOM
and in person at
Middlesex Town Hall
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

PRESENT: Peter O. Hood, Chair. Steve Martin, Vice Chair. Members Randy Drury, Phil Hyjek and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Commissioner Vic Dwire. Jayne Shoup. Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes and was in Town Hall, which was open to the public.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5 PM. Liz wanted to discuss a grant and Peter the Bandstand Shed.

Denying the Road Foreman's Request to Continue Working after Resignation

Peter referred to a May 26, 2022, email from Road Foreman Shane Brickey asking to stay on as road foreman after June 2, 2022 – the day his resignation is effective – with pay and benefits until the Town hires a new foreman. Contrary to what Shane said in the email, Vic said Shane told him he will not apply for the foreman position if the Board does not accept his request to continue in this interim position. Vic said Shane doesn't understand why the Board won't extend his employment. Dorinda confirmed that by working until June 2, his health insurance coverage will continue until July 1. However, Shane will not be covered by worker's comp or life insurance after his June 2 resignation and all VMERS contributions from Middlesex will stop. Steve asked what if the Board decides to keep him on until the foreman is hired.

Randy said Steve needs to step back from the conversation because the Board will be discussing matters involving Shane, Steve's son. Phil and Peter agreed. Steve left the meeting.

The Board discussed the timeline of events, that Shane announced his resignation before he was assured of a job as foreman in Plainfield and that it's not the Board's fault it needed to scramble to make arrangements to cover his job since the Board was given only two weeks' notice. Randy said the Town put things in place and made arrangements to make sure Town was covered. Doesn't feel right to scrap those. Victor has contacted Gary Lamell to make arrangements as interim foreman, but Gary, a former Town foreman, will not perform that duty if Shane is still on the crew. Randy said he has concerns about a disgruntled employee staying on and potential liability issues. It's not a risk the Town should be taking. Phil said he agrees with Randy that, albeit an unfortunate situation, it was Shane who decided to seek employment elsewhere. Phil just wants to move on. Liz said given the circumstances, it's not in the Town's best interests to keep Shane on a temporary basis, especially since there are a couple of viable candidates for the foreman job. Shane was not satisfied working here in the first place, she said, and the Select Board is not responsible for what happened. Peter said, ultimately, the Board has to do what's best for the Town/

MOTION: Randy moved and Phil seconded not accepting Shane Brickey's offer to serve as Road Foreman past his resignation date of June 2, 2022. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liz updated the Board about the status of a \$60,000 grant application to the Vermont Community Development Block Grant Program to pay for a comprehensive study of the future of the Middlesex Town Hall. A review board with VCDBG has responded with questions that need to be answered before the final submission on June 3rd. Has the Town considered using ARPA funds? Liz said she sent Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission consultant Christian Meyer, who's been assisting on this application, a "wish list" the Board drew up of potential ARPA projects. ARPA money has a variety of applications; town hall studies are more narrow. The review board also wanted more information on a weatherization study and wanted to know if \$10,000 toward community involvement was necessary. Finally, Middlesex resident David Magida, who's overseen budgeting capital projects at Norwich University, stepped in to provide an expert review of the budget the Capital Planning Committee submitted on its application to the VCDBG and has offered to provide further assistance as the project moves forward.

Peter asked the Board to review a sketch of a proposed shed submitted by the Bandstand Committee to be erected on Town Recreation field. The Board will consider the design at its regularly scheduled June 7th meeting.

Dorinda asked if Steve would still be a member of the three-man hiring committee interviewing Road Foreman applicants. The Board will discuss this at its June 7th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 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 7, 2022.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

STEVEN MARTIN, VICE CHAIR

RANDY DRURY

PHIL HYJEK

ELIZABETH SCHARF