

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Randy Drury
 Phil Hyjek
 Liz Scharf
 Vacant

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022
REMOTE VIA ZOOM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

PRESENT: Peter O. Hood, Chair. Members Randy Drury and Phil Hyjek, Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Commissioner Vic Dwire. Trails Committee members Adrienne Magida, Michael Levine, and Jon Udis. MVFD Chief Eric Metivier and Firefighter Scott Isham, Former Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Jason Merrill. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes. The meeting was recorded by ORCA.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. There were no amendments.

Passing over Appointing a New Select Board Member

Three voters have submitted their names to fill the vacancy left by Steve Martin who resigned from the Board at its June 7, 2022, meeting. They are: Sarah Birgé, Vic Dwire and Jason Merrill. However, Peter said Liz requested in an email that the Board hold off making an appointment until she returns from vacation next month. Randy said he had mixed feelings since two of the candidates were present and had made time to attend the meeting. Peter agreed, but said it wasn't critical for the Board to appoint someone that night.

MOTION: Phil moved and Randy seconded passing over this agenda item until the next Select Board meeting. The motion passed.

Approving Eric Metivier as New Road Foreman

Randy, who was on the hiring committee with Vic and Phil, said the committee engaged with every applicant who applied for the Road Foreman position. Ultimately, the committee recommended hiring Eric, a Middlesex resident and chief of the MVFD, as foreman effective July 1, 2022, with a pay rate of \$32/hour and three-weeks' vacation.

MOTION: Randy moved and Phil seconded hiring Eric Metivier based on the above terms. The motion passed. Vic thanked Phil and Randy for conducting interviews.

Considering the Trails Committee's Request to Downgrade a Class 4 Portion of North Bear Swamp Road to Trail

Adrienne said the Trails Committee has been inventorying trails around Middlesex and has been discussing what to do about a portion of North Bear Swamp Road between the last house off East Bear Swamp and the parking lot for the Hunger Mountain hiking trail that contains large, pond-like puddles. Sometimes motorists try to drive through and get stuck. At first, the committee thought about whether the lakes could be filled in, but in speaking to the former Road Foreman, she said it might be more manageable to simply downgrade that portion to a legal trail and cut back some brush to create paths. She said the committee is aware of the statutory process, but wanted to bring this to the Board for feedback.

Paul said he's walked the area with Mary Nealon and Jon Udis, Trails Committee members, and said the stretch is an "habitual offender." He does not see the benefit of that staying Class 4. Peter said it hasn't been the Town's practice to throw up a road that connects one side of Town to the other. Perhaps the Town could install a culvert and warning signs. Randy said he, too, is reluctant to release a Class 4 road. He would like to visit it with the new Road Foreman for his input.

Vic spoke against throwing it up because a lot of people use it for hunting and other purposes. And abutting homeowners are under no obligation to pull out stuck motorists. Michael said he likes the idea of a Select Board field trip with the new road foreman.

Adrienne and Michael stressed they were simply starting the discussion. Jon said the goal of the Trails Committee has never been to prevent legal motorized vehicles from going where they want to go.

The Board discussed meeting with the Trails Committee and the new Road Foreman at the site. The Board will meet at 5 PM, July 19, 2022, at Rumney School and carpool to the area. Adrienne will notify abutting landowners. Sarah will notify the State of Vermont which owns abutting woodland. Adrienne, Jon and Michael left the meeting.

Regular Monthly Meeting with the MVFD

Eric delivered the June report on MVFD activity. (Please see attached at the bottom of these minutes.)

The Board discussed the updated quote of \$69,728.79 for air packs. Peter said ARPA money may be able to cover the cost. Eric said the MVFD has been working with the Middlesex Community Fund to help with paying for eight handheld radios since the current radios are over twenty years old. The MCF is willing to help and the MVFD will conduct fundraising since the cost is \$9,300. Peter said that's good since the Town was not awarded the planning grant to help with the future of Town Hall. There are now MVFD/FAST squad members who are not quite EMTs, but who can assist in emergencies. Scott left the meeting.

Highway Department Update

Vic said the Highway Department continues to excavate berm and ditches on Center Road. During the week of July 4th, culverts will be installed. Vic asked the Board for feedback on the proposed width of Center Road when it's paved. Currently, the proposal is for a 24' road which initially was to cost \$251,304. Due to inflation which has affected the cost of fuel and asphalt, reclaiming the existing asphalt would cost \$38,193 and the new asphalt would cost \$316,794 since asphalt's gone up from \$74/ton to \$84/ton. Peter said if Center Road's always been 22' for Class 3 then keep it at 22'. Wider equals faster. The Board agreed to reduce the proposed width to 22'. Jason said it takes 5 tons of asphalt per 100 feet. Randy said that's a saving of \$25,000-\$26,000. Randy asked Vic to request an estimate on paving to McCullough Hill when he gets an update on the 22' -wide asphalt proposal.

Vic said the Town could rent a roadside mower for 3,000/week for one or two weeks in July from Pete's Repair in Morrisville. Dorinda said the budget for roadside mowing is \$7,000. It would also cost \$140/hour to move and it's 30 miles to the Town Garage from Morrisville. Peter suggested renting for two weeks.

Vic said Bryan Redmond is upset the Town did not grade the Class 4 section of his road at the end of Notch Road. Vic said it's so narrow there, the grader gets stuck and this grader is bigger than one in past. Peter said he's confused as to why the Town would maintain that Class 4 road anyway. Paul said that in the past there's been a happy medium struck with the State and Trails Committee about that portion of Notch Road since it leads to the Town Forest. He said he kept it in somewhat decent shape so the Town wouldn't have to go through the effort of upgrading to Class 3 and he felt an obligation because of access to the Town Forest. That agreement apparently fell to the wayside during the transition between Town foreman.

Randy referred to trees removed on Center Road at a cost of \$5,200 because they were interfering with power lines. He said that should be the power company's responsibility. Vic said that was in the works years ago and the power company wouldn't touch them. Randy asked why is the Town responsible for removing trees? Paul said tort liability. Knowing about a potential hazard and not addressing it could put the Town at risk should the tree fall and cause damage. He said there's a tree budget to hire someone to remove trees that are out of the Town's ability. Peter said that's customary procedure with trees that are dangerous. Vic said he resented every decision by the Highway Department being second guessed by the Board. Randy said that was the duty of the Select Board, to oversee the Highway Department. In this case, there's a perception issue since the order to cut the trees on Steve Martin's property came from his son who was then the Road Foreman. It's something that should have been aired publicly. Randy said he has an issue with this. Dorinda said the invoice notes the trees were cut down because they were impeding power lines; there was nothing on the invoice about them being a potential danger.

Dorinda asked about financing the new truck. The Board agreed she should seek financing now and use one loan and pay two vendors: Kenworth and Tenco.

The Board discussed Gary Lamell's role going forward. Peter asked if Gar wants to stay on as an excavator operator.

Treasurer's Report

Dorinda was looking for feedback on salary reports detailing pay and benefits the Board suggested she include with paychecks in the new fiscal year starting July 1. The Board agreed it was a good idea and she liked her format. Dorinda said since the first paycheck in July will straddle both fiscal years, she will probably include the reports in the second July paycheck.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Phil moved and Randy seconded approving the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Select Board meeting and the June 15, 2022 Special Meeting. The motion passed.

The Board agreed to move the next regularly scheduled meeting from July 5th to July 12th.

All orders were approved and signed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE REMOTELY APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIALLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON JULY 12, 2022.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

N/A
ELIZABETH SCHARF, VICE CHAIR

RANDY DRURY

PHIL HYJEK

VACANT

MVFD JUNE 21, 2022 NOTES
21 June SB Meeting Notes

Total calls to date: 32
Calls over the last month: 8
Mutual Aid out: 0
Mutual Aid in: 1
Max members respond: 6
Min members respond: 1
Avg members respond: 4

E-1 out 7 time
E-6 out 0 times
T-1 out 4 time
R-1 out 2 time

Calls:
18 May, East Hill Rd, smoke alarm activation, false alarm, 1 responder direct
30 May, I-89 SB mm57, car fire, E-1, T-1, R-1, 6 responders
12 June, I-89 NB mm58.8, car vs deer, E-1, T-1, R-1, 6 responders
12 June, 1076 US Route 2 CO alarm activation, E-1, 5 responders
14 June, 565 US Route 2 pull off car fire, E-1 3 responders
17 June, I89 SB 1 mile before exit 8, E-1, T-1 3 responders
17 June, VT Route 12 town line truck vs pole, E-1, T-1, 3 responders
19 June, I-89 NB mm60.0 car vs deer, E-1, 5 responders

Training: Hose deployment and use

Repairs: All 5 vehicles VSI, E-6 needed exhaust work, R-1 needed rust repair and carburetor work

Purchases: received multi-gas meter, received 2 replacement air bottles after placing order Dec 2021

Community: On 06/13/2022 E-1 and T-1 visited Rumney school at the request of the kindergarten class for a story time and interaction.

FAST Sq:
5 total for the reporting period
5 medical only calls
0 in conjunction with FD calls