

Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 13, 2014 Approved

CALL TO ORDER: Laura Castle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

BOARD PRESENT: Shirley Moyer, Terry Redfield, Herb Childress, Mike Lamson, Carl Haynes

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jenny Muniyak, Bill Reed, Mark McManus, Peter Stevenson, Nora Rubinstein, Laura Castle, David Muniyak, Juanita Burch Clay.

Organization

- T. Redfield nominates Carl Haynes for chairman. H. Childress 2nd. *[all in favor, motion carried]*
- S. Moyer nominates Terry Redfield as vice chairman. M. Lamson 2nd. *[all in favor, motion carried]*
- M. Lamson nominates Herb Childress as clerk. T. Redfield 2nd. *[all in favor, motion carried]*
- M. Lamson moves to use Roberts Rules for Small Boards. T. Redfield 2nd. *[all in favor, motion carried]*
- T. Redfield moves to continue Select Board meetings on second and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Town Office. H. Childress 2nd. *[all in favor, motion carried]*

Approval of Minutes

- T. Redfield moves to approve the minutes of February 27 Regular Meeting as presented. S. Moyer 2nd. *[M. Lamson, S. Moyer, and T. Redfield – aye; C. Haynes, H. Childress – abstain; motion carried]*

Fire Dept

- Fire Association held meeting after capital improvement (roof, furnace) rejected. Options discussed: try to revote/piggyback on Schoolboard, suggestion from T. Redfield that it may not be worth investing additional funds into the building and perhaps a multiuse building for town roadcrew and fire/first response could be constructed/existing firehouse torn down. Mark presents site sketch with potential multiuse building on town site. Another option discussed is to secure a loan and pay the loan out of annual budget – however they don't own the property (own the building) and can't secure a loan. Inquires if the town would be willing to sell the property and property reverts back to town if not used as a firehouse; or whether the town would be willing to undertake a loan and be repaid from Fire Association's operating budget. Herb inquires if the money donated to the fire dept by ladies auxiliary could be used. Mark indicates that money was earmarked for equipment replacement which is aging. Carl inquires if fire dept has considered regionalizing fire department. Mark has heard of this however may not be feasible due to insurance concerns and may not be effective for response times. Mark notes the high number of volunteers in town and effective coverage. Terry notes that eventually, transfer station will have to relocate, and that a firehouse/first response/roadcrew project might jumpstart that consideration. Herb asks whether there has been a townwide masterplan that considers the use of all facilities and properties; Carl refers to the Crane report prepared 10-12 years ago when town purchased the West Street property.
- Nora Rubinstein inquires about the second component of Fire Association's rejected capital improvement request, the replacement of the heating system. Mark indicates that the heating replacement is not as immediate as the roof repair, but that a new propane furnace would be more efficient and that propane is currently less expensive

than fuel oil; both factors would reduce operating costs. Mike suggests investigating solar heating technologies, given substantial southern roof area.

Peter Stevenson

- Wanted to respond to David Munyak's letter to the Selectboard. Peter cites his experience in the industry. Peter visited VOSHA in Rutland and spoke with a Senior Inspector, who did not agree with some of what the letter stated. VOSHA asked to be contacted before any further construction takes place. Indicated owners would be liable. Responsibility is on the owner and Middletown Springs is now on VOSHA's radar. Division of Fire Safety – owners should contact and they will visit site and determine if a permit is necessary. Stated that no permit was necessary but they would like to be contacted beforehand. Peter thinks the town should be aware of what permits are necessary. Peter would like correction on page 2, paragraph 3.1 striking his name as consultant.
- David Munyak – indicated that he and Peter have had conversations, and that he has consistently followed up to investigate and resolve Peter's concerns. He reminded all present that the town has engaged Claypoint Associates as the project manager, and that Claypoint has managed contracts with the various subcontractors who have done work on the site. As Chair of the Building Committee, David recognized that Peter had concerns, and advised the Selectboard on the status and resolution of those concerns.
- Mike offers appreciation for David's work, which has gone above and beyond in addressing all concerns. He feels that David's thorough response to the Selectboard regarding Peter's questions has bolstered his credibility in leading the town's efforts on the building project.

Public Comments

- Juanita Burch Clay – note from Auditors to inform that they met recently with trustees of town funds

Building Committee Report

- Building Committee thanks Selectboard and voters for the support of Article 5.
- Food sale was successful (net \$645.70) and almost sold out. Leftovers went to those counting votes
- Will be contacting Agency of Commerce regarding continued site cleanup
- Low response on surveys
- Nora Rubinstein and David Munyak met with Kaitlyn Lovegrove to sign off on the WiFi connections which is now active and available around the town green. 94 folks have used the wireless connection in the first month.

Road Commissioner Report

- Purchased 100 yards of sand which was well-needed for the most recent storm
- M. Lamson moves to complete the Section 125 application to enroll the town in a cafeteria plan provided through BCBS with an annual fee of \$250. T. Redfield 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- **Town Equipment**
 - Windmill is working on the grader
 - Backhoe – there may be a chance to get a loaner
 - Carl reviewed Nortrak estimate for backhoe repair – total cost is \$10,800 and wonders if we should be considering replacing the backhoe as opposed to putting money into it. Bill will look into cost of replacing and trade-in potential.
- **Highway Employees**

- Carl moves to allow Steve Geno to work 40 hours per week. T. Redfield 2nd. [*H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield – aye; S. Moyer – nay; motion carried*]
- Mike will analyze road crew hours for 2012 through present to discover any patterns in overall hours and in need for overtime.
- Herb encourages Bill Reed to draft job descriptions for all road crew positions, and to bring those to Selectboard for review and revision. Job descriptions will help both Road Foreman and Selectboard better manage road crew.

Vacant Town Positions

- Town Moderator: Tony Lamberton received sufficient write-in votes to be elected. Laura will notify Tony that he has won election.
- Town Agent: no one received sufficient votes
- Constable – Joe Parker received 10 votes (but has indicated that he is not interested), Joe Castle 9 votes. Laura will notify Joe Castle that he has won election.
- Trustees of Copeland Cemetery Fund — Dan McKeen received sufficient write in votes to be elected. Laura will notify Dan that he has won election.
- Trustees of Lewis Funds and other Public Monies — Gene Boertsche received enough write-in votes to be elected. Laura will notify Gene that he has won election.
- Planning Commission – advertise position for three-year and four-year seats.
- C. Haynes moves and H. Childress 2nd that Laura will ask Robin Chesnut-Tangerman to continue as Fence Viewer; that Terry Redfield continue as Tree Warden; that Ellen Secord continue as Service Officer; and that Tara Kelly continue as Emergency Management Director. [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- Town representative to Rutland Solid Waste Committee — Mike Lamson, with Jim Dudley as alternate
- Town representatives to Rutland Regional Planning commission — John Arsenault and Tom Hurcomb
- Town representative to Rutland Regional Transportation Council — Carl Haynes to remain
- Conservation committee: Selectboard will ask Kathy Doyle with help for starting over with recommendations for committee service
- T. Redfield moves that Carl Haynes be appointed to three-year seat on Copeland Milk Fund, Rodney Tarbell to two-year seat; H. Childress 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Solid Waste

- Jim Dudley notes some unauthorized use of the transfer station. Selectboard agrees that we need better security of both building and fence/gate.
- Recertification of the transfer station is in process, notices placed in *Magnet* and *Herald*.

Correspondence

- People's Bank letter indicating direct deposit for employee paychecks would cost \$35/month plus \$.19/transaction. C. Haynes moves to not enroll in the program. T. Redfield 2nd. [*All in favor, motion carried*]
- VLCT Selectboard institute; H. Childress will attend in April.
- VLCT News
- Municipal treasurer's workshop from VLCT
- Service Request Form – Bill Reed – Request for copies of 2/27 audio tapes and unapproved minutes.
- J&B International Truck – offer for municipal funding
- Fleet permit from Markowski. M. Lamson moves to approve the Markowski fleet permit request. T. Redfield 2nd. [*All in favor, motion carried*]

- Highway Certification document

Financials/Board Orders

- T. Redfield moves to approve the board orders as presented. M. Lamson 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Other Business

- Laura will order 2 Selectboard manuals
- Mike will purchase tabletop digital audiorecorder to replace obsolete cassette recorder for town use.
- Carl will inquire about costs of sheriff service

Legal

- T. Redfield moves to enter executive session. S. Moyer 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]
Enter executive session 10:50 pm
- Move out of executive session 11:15 pm. T. Redfield moves to authorize Carl Haynes to speak with the Pessler family regarding the Vientrella/Riedenger case. S. Moyer 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Adjourn

- M. Lamson moves to adjourn. T. Redfield 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 11:16 pm.

Mike Lamson, Outgoing Clerk
Herb Childress, Incoming Clerk