

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes  
July 10, 2014 Approved**

**Note that this meeting was proceeded by a publically posted 6pm work session in the field, examining conditions and maintenance possibilities for a section of Coy Hill Road. In attendance at that session were all Selectboard Members plus Road Commissioner.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:11 pm

**BOARD PRESENT:** H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Laura Castle, Bill Reed

**Approval of Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve minutes from June 26 meeting; C. Haynes 2nd. [*Aye—C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Abstain—H. Childress; motion carried*].

**Public Comment:** Bill Reed noted that the cassette tape of the 6/12 meeting failed. The new digital recorder will be kept at the Town Clerk's office so that the cassette recorder will not be used in future. H. Childress will investigate methods for backup storage of audio files from digital recorder. S. Moyer noted that the audio recording was originally started as a convenience for the clerk's recording of minutes; the approved minutes are the official public record of the meeting. M. Lamson will inquire with VLCT regarding how long audio recordings should be kept.

**Town Officers:** Laura Castle has appointed an Assistant Clerk (Sharen Underwood). It is difficult for them to work simultaneously due to crowded office conditions. She also reports tax delinquencies at end of fiscal year 2013-14 totalling \$73,808.

**Town Lands:** No updates to report on Parker property. A tree from the Teer property was damaged during the early July windstorms, and is partially lying across the Grant's Store and Parker properties. Joe or Joey Teer will advise the Selectboard about its removal.

M. Lamson has followed up with engineer Johnston regarding letter of map amendment (LOMA) for West Street property; Johnston will mail LOMA to town office.

**Road Commissioner:**

- Bill Reed noted service requests, which were taken up later in the meeting.
- He has not been grading roads when there is rain impending, so as to not loosen material. He graded the northern end of Norton from Spruce Knob down to the beginning of the Class 3 section on July 10, and will grade from there to West Street soon.
- M. Lamson will work with highway crew to set a new voicemail message at the garage.

**Town Equipment:** The backhoe went to Turunen's repair shop in Poultney on July 9, with no estimated date of completion. It was discovered that the steering column needs full replacement, which adds roughly \$1,000 to estimated cost. T. Redfield moves to add steering column to repair cost; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>. If the steering column will take too long to arrive, the town will retrieve the backhoe and operate it until parts arrive. [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Bill noted that the 7400 needs front brake work, and that he will not allow Steve Geno to drive it until brakes are repaired. That truck also needs repairs to a hole in the floorboard, and new rear

tires. C. Haynes moves to take it to Turunen's to repair brakes, weld floorboard, and purchase recap tires; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*Aye—C. Haynes; Nay—M. Lamson, H. Childress; Abstain—S. Moyer, T. Redfield; motion failed*] Discussion on vehicle repair vendors, each of whom has their supporters and detractors among Board members. T. Redfield moves that we have just the brake work done at Earle's repair shop in Rutland at earliest opportunity; M. Lamson 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*Aye—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nay—C. Haynes; motion carried*]

Regarding floorboard for 7400, the welding contractor will visit next week to give an estimate for all pre-winter welding work; Bill will bring that information to July 24 meeting for consideration.

C. Haynes moves to have grader taken to Turunen's for oil change and oil/fuel/air filter replacement; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. Work will only commence once we have the backhoe returned, so that Highway staff can be fully productive with one or the other heavy machine. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Road Work:** Selectboard and Road Commissioner viewed Coy Hill Road from Moyer's to Mountain Road, which has muddy/icy areas in winter from runoff. Bill will dig test holes to learn whether ditching alongside that stretch of Coy Hill is possible. He would prioritize road rebuilding on the eastern end of Coy Hill (toward West Street) rather than the western end (toward South Street).

The Selectboard received a service request from Geoff McGuire for grading at Montvert Road. Bill informs that there is not sufficient material to grade, and would need to add 80-100 yards of material to that area before grading. T. Redfield moves to fulfill McGuire's service request with Bill's recommended work; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

S. Moyer has received petitions from DUME LLC that the Town throw up Whites Road and Moyer Acres Road, and reclassify Fox Bridge Road to a Class 4 designation. H. Childress moves to pursue petitions, and set public meeting for information and input; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*] H. Childress will bring proposed language for required notifications (public posting, Rutland Herald, letters to nearby property owners, and notification to Planning Commission) to the July 24 meeting, and a public meeting date will be set at that time.

**Highway Staff:** No return-to-work date yet for Bobby Parker. Steve Geno questioned when his contributions to Town's retirement plan will be deducted from his pay; H. Childress will confer with Town Treasurer.

**Solid Waste:** M. Lamson informed State that Transfer Station has been brought into compliance for electronic waste. M. Lamson continues to seek bids on gate replacement.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Jenny Talke Munyak sent Treasurer's report. The school still owes the Town \$11,000 for a portion of the Safe Routes to School paving project; the School Board voted in February to pay this, but it hadn't been moved to a pay order. The School Board will be issuing a check soon, to be accounted against their 2013-14 budget. HC moves that when the check arrives, it be placed into the 2013-14 paving reserve fund; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- Service Requests:
  - Marie Louka requests that we removed material from West Street ditch that had allowed vehicle access into her field; Bill Reed will do this work.

- Tom Jaeger asks for dust treatment on Buxton Road; we're awaiting chloride solution.
- Robert and Elaine Baker ask for tree trimming on Garron Road prior to a construction project; T. Redfield will investigate.
- Geoff McGuire asks for grading of Montvert Road; approved as noted above.
- Request from Bruce Orchitt that the Town issue a check for roadside mowing upon completion. Bill Reed will verify completion. H. Childress moved to approve a payment order, M. Lamson 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried; manual board order prepared*]
- VT Department of Natural Resources—information on universal recycling regulations. M. Lamson will investigate steps of compliance.
- BCBSVT (health insurance) newsletter for employers
- VT Board of Health—notice of Tick and Mosquito Safety workshop on July 29 in Brandon.
- VT Department of Taxes—2014-15 property tax rates. Middletown Springs rate is set at \$1.4936 for non-residential, and \$1.6657 for homestead. Board will ask Treasurer for a brief meeting prior to next full Board meeting (7/24) to discuss any amendments to these rates due to 2013-14 budget surplus.
- VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired—thank-you letter for Town donation.
- American Red Cross—thank-you letter for Town donation.
- Note from Treasurer that Steve Geno has repaid Town for extra BCBSVT co-pay.

**Board Orders:** T. Redfield moves to accept Board Orders as presented; C. Haynes 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Legal:** Town attorney Gary Kupferer has spoken to attorneys for parties affected by Garron Road lawsuit, and recommends that the attorneys assemble for a site visit.

Attorney Kupferer requests a meeting of Selectboard at his office to discuss another issue; the Selectboard decides on Monday July 21 at 6pm. This meeting will be posted as a special meeting of the Selectboard, but will immediately move to executive session. H. Childress moves to set this meeting, T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Executive Session:** H. Childress moves to enter executive session for legal and personnel matters; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session begins 10:40 pm.

M. Lamson moves to leave executive session; C. Haynes 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]  
Executive Session concludes 11:44 pm.

Selectboard made no amendments to Bill Reed's personnel reviews of Steve Geno and Bobby Parker, and he may communicate his reviews to them directly.

H. Childress will work with Kimberly Matthewson on website requirements for compliance with coming changes in Vermont Open Meeting Law. All meeting minutes will be accompanied by a disclaimer that the only approved legal records of public meetings are those that are on file with Town Clerk.

**Adjourn** — M. Lamson moves to adjourn, C. Haynes 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 11:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Clerk