

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes  
March 26, 2015 Regular Meeting Approved**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:01 pm

**BOARD PRESENT:** H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield, J. Webber

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Laura Castle, Jim Georg, Tom Hurcomb, Bill Reed.

**Approval of Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve minutes from March 1 special meeting, S. Moyer 2<sup>nd</sup> [*Aye—H. Childress, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Abstain—M. Lamson, J. Webber; motion carried*]. J. Webber moved to approve minutes from 3/12, S. Moyer 2<sup>nd</sup> [*Aye—M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield, J. Webber; Abstain—H. Childress; motion carried*]

**Public Comments:** Tom Hurcomb reported from Creative Economy Steering Committee. The Steering Committee met with Kathy Letendre as potential consultant for the community planning grant, and has made a unanimous recommendation that the Board retain her as consultant. (There were five RFQs sent out, and Kathy was the sole respondent; others felt that it did not fit their schedules or qualifications.) As the project goes forward, community outreach and information will be done through public meetings, the Magnet, Front Porch Forum, and Selectboard updates. H. Childress moved to contract with Kathy Letendre to conduct the scope of work for the community planning grant, M. Lamson 2<sup>nd</sup>. [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Representing the Planning Commission, Tom reported that RRPC is working on updating the entirety of the regional plan, which includes a regional plan for telecommunications. Tom recommends that the Selectboard review this potential plan and advocate for stronger telecommunications/public safety strategy. The whole plan can be viewed at the RRPC website as of this afternoon.

Jim Georg reports that the town needs another Auditor. Juanita Burch-Clay has one year left in her term, Jim has taken the two-year position, and the Town needs to fill the three-year position. He believes that it would be best to do an audit after the Town and Treasurer have finalized the changes in financial practices that are currently being implemented. In addition, the Town Report was produced quickly enough that there was not a sufficiently strong financial proofreading. There will be a warned Auditors' meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 3/31 at the Town Office.

**Town Officer Positions:** Terry Redfield has accepted the position of Tree Warden. We still have outstanding positions; Terry will work with Laura to develop a list of candidates for outreach.

**Town Lands:** West Street property listing will begin on April 1 for six months.

**Road Commissioner Report:** The advertisement for the North Street box culvert project has gone out, and Bill has gotten good preliminary responses. All bids must be received at the Town Office by 7pm April 9<sup>th</sup>, to be opened and reviewed at the 4/9

Selectboard meeting. A scope of work packet is available at the Town Office. Bill has conferred with Keith Mason, Pawlet Road Foreman, who has extensive experience with these projects, and has received important advice. Bill has conferred with both adjacent North Street property owners about construction impacts.

Mud season planning: the highway crew is opening frozen culverts; road posting has not been done yet since the weather has remained fairly cold; the gravel pit is open and the sand pile is loosened.

Highway equipment: all vehicles are running well, no imminent repairs foreseen.

**Solid Waste:** Household hazardous waste collection Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30 to noon. We do not yet have a hauler for scrap metal collection on the May large/metal waste day. We need to revise some practices at the Transfer Station regarding electronic waste; Mike will take the lead on needs assessment.

**Poultney River Walk Update:** Mike Lamson sent a Front Porch Forum message and received some expressions of interest. Individuals who are interested in being part of the river trail steering committee should express interest, and the Selectboard will appoint the first iteration of the committee.

**Correspondence:** The Church has expressed gratitude for the drainage work the Town did last spring, and reports no water intrusion in the Church buildings so far this spring. H. Childress moved to accept the overweight permit requests from Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating and from United Natural Foods; J. Webber 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Board Orders.** J. Webber moved that Chair Terry Redfield and vice Chair Mike Lamson be allowed to sign payroll orders when payroll and Board meetings go out of sync. [*all in favor, motion carried*]. M. Lamson moved to approve board orders as presented, H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Legal Issues:** Gary Kupferer sent a copy of a letter he developed for Carl Haynes' challenge to recent election results, indicating his opinion that the Board of Civil Authority does not need to conduct a recount.

**Highway Job Descriptions:** We will set a special meeting to work on job descriptions.

**Executive Session:** H. Childress moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues, and to invite Laura Castle and Bill Reed to join us in this session; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*] Executive session entered at 9:00 pm.

T. Redfield moved to end executive session at 9:53 pm [*all in favor, motion passed*]. No action taken in executive session.

**Adjourn:** J. Webber moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>. [all in favor, motion carried].  
Meeting adjourned 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Herb Childress, Clerk*