

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting 7PM February 23, 2017 Approved**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Jenny Munyak, Town Treasurer; Bill Reed, Road Foreman

PUBLIC PRESENT: Lois Dansereau, Beth Miller (both from Library Board)

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES: C. Fenton moved to approve minutes of February 9, 2017; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. P. Kenyon moved to approve informational meeting minutes of February 15, 2017; C. Fenton 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lois Dansereau has read in the Town Report that the Louis Fund has provided the library board with \$520.52; the Library has not received any such payment. Last year the Town received no report from the trustees of the Louis Fund. Patty has spoken with Gene Bertsche, who has said that checks are ready but have not yet been signed and distributed because it's been difficult to get the trustees together. It's also increasingly difficult because of bank regulations to have signatories change from year to year for elected or appointed officials.

H. Childress moved to allow the Town Treasurer to be a signatory for the Louis Fund and Other Public Monies at the written authorization of the Trustees, or of the Select Board if a quorum of the Trustees cannot be assembled; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

TOWN OFFICERS: Town Treasurer Jenny Munyak has investigated possibilities for town accounts and investments. VLCT has no specific recommendations for municipal investments, and notes that hardly anyone is getting strong returns on their investments. She will bring us the VLCT sample investment policy for consideration in the spring. Jenny also met with the municipal funds officer of People's Bank; we could move the money into a money market account at 0.1% to 0.15%, or some portion into a CD (roughly 0.3% for 6-months or 0.4% for 12-months). The difference between any of these strategies might be as much as two or three hundred dollars a year in interest. Jenny recommends remaining with People's for most reserve accounts; we have a good relationship with them, and they insure us beyond the \$250,000 FDIC limit. We do have an account for highway capital improvement with TD Bank (approximately \$125,000), and the municipal facilities account with Citizen's Bank (approximately \$217,000). Jenny advises moving the municipal facilities account to People's United.

H. Childress moved to sign the resolution from People's United Bank to give the Treasurer authorization to open new accounts within that bank; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Taxes are due on March 15th, and some late payments have recently been received from the December payment.

Town Clerk Laura Castle will call a BCA meeting to review the voting checklist prior to town meeting. The calibration testing for the tabulator will be Friday 2/24 at 9am. She went to a town clerk's meeting on elections yesterday, and there's significant mutual support across town clerks in the region. Mt. Holly town office was robbed this morning, seeking tax funds.

The Board discussed citizen appointments and the numerous vacancies. We will advertise the vacant positions, both elected and appointed, on Front Porch Forum and also at this weekend's Candidate Forum.

TOWN LANDS: the Building Committee is awaiting interpretations of the well test results, which are very complex because of the site's status of former industrial material use and storage. Next week the committee will be interviewing an estimator. Jenny reports that if we want to get a construction bond, we may use the Vermont Bond Bank, or People's; there will be a required town-wide audit in either case. The building committee is also investigating project financing through USDA, which may include a federal contribution to the project as well.

HIGHWAY: Bill has four emergency backup helpers lined up (Art Castle, Joe Castle, Brian DeBonis, and Jim Seamans) while Bill is gone next week. If there's no storms, Brent and Bobby will be fine on their own. The crew has been working this week with culverts to keep roads drained, and patching the worst muddy spots. Bill purchased 140 yards of sand to get through the season. The equipment is in good repair at present.

Brian Sanderson brought archive maps of Middletown town roads and bridges; he also confirmed that the Town has jurisdiction over West Street (which is Class 2, but is a Town highway) and could allow ATV use if the voters so approve.

Bill had a near miss with a minivan on Mountain Road, operating unsafely. Sheriff's Deputy Hunter has been informed of the license number (New York plates), and will be attentive.

CORRESPONDENCE: Rutland County proposed budget for 2017-18 fiscal year; two VLCT meetings (Health Officers 3/29 and Economic Development 3/22); VLCT News Feb '17; contract for project control of Vermont Digital Economy WiFi project handoff; VT Department of Labor benefit charge notice; bill from Long Trail Engineering for well engineering.

BOARD ORDERS: H. Childress moved to approve the Board Orders as presented; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

OTHER BUSINESS: The Select Board will have a special meeting at 6:30 PM on Thursday March 2 for final preparation for Town Meeting. Individual Board members will be posting information on Front Porch Forum prior to the meeting. Laura will schedule the BCA meeting for 6 pm

ADJOURN: C. Fenton moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk