

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
January 22, 2015 Regular Meeting Approved**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 pm

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Juanita Burch-Clay, Laura Castle, David Munyak, Bill Reed, Chris Smid

Minutes: M; Lamson moved to approve January 8 minutes, S. Moyer 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*], M. Lamson moved to approve January 12 minutes, T. Redfield 2nd [*Ayes—H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield; Abstain—S. Moyer; motion carried*], C. Haynes moved to approve January 15 minutes with changes in two spellings, M. Lamson 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*], T. Redfield moved to approve January 21 minutes, S. Moyer 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public comment:

- Chris Smid (present as a citizen, not acting as a formal representative of the School Board): School board has not taken a position on the petitioned ballot article. Education finance is a hot topic statewide, and some things will change in next few years. Board has engaged a consultant for options regarding both elementary and secondary education, and they will present their findings and recommendations to the townspeople. The petitioned article may short circuit the process, given that factfinding has not yet been completed. In addition, the petition was not submitted to the appropriate body for consideration. The School Board's attorney Chris Leopold has advised that the Selectboard cannot place this article on the ballot as a binding initiative, but it may act as an advisory measure by the townspeople. Mike Lamson has spoken with our VLCT attorney, who agreed that this petitioned article is outside the purview of this board to act upon; she advises that if we put it on the town ballot, we should put it at the end and clearly mark it as an advisory only, or we should reject it. H. Childress moves to not place this petitioned item on the ballot, since its request is outside the purview of the Selectboard, S. Moyer 2nd [*Aye—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nay—C. Haynes; motion passed*]

Town officers:

- Juanita Burch Clay (Auditors): advance notice of Auditors' report. Reiterates that development of policies for efficiency and protection is important. Standardized reporting template for trust funds. Copeland Milk Fund questions on distribution. Is it possible to move trust funds to same fiscal year as town funds? Auditors will likely have oversight of external audit procedure. Board should approve personnel policy that has been developed.
- David Munyak (Building committee): ACCD will provide an additional \$5K, bringing the grant total to \$150K. David provided a full recap of the brownfield project; the Town directly paid only 4.2% of total costs, with the rest paid for by grant funding or other agencies.

Town Lands: Three members of the Board toured the property on West Street on Monday 1/19 with realtor Sarah Haley. The house has significant damage to finishes and systems, but may be structurally salvageable. Terry noted that the power meter was still energized, and has directed GMP to close down power. Sarah will come to February 12 meeting with comparable recent sales and a suggested listing price.

Road Commissioner: most recent storm has been pretty unique. Spot sanding and responses to accidents has used roughly 100 yards of mixed sand and salt. Many calls regarding roads and road conditions. Highway crew responded to accidents on 133: a state trooper, and the wrecker that responded; a head-on collision at Wallace's turn. Provided salt/sand, clearance, traffic control. Sand pile in need of replenishment. Some culverts are freezing, and the pressure washer needs \$1400 in repair/overhaul (replacement would be \$6K).

The backhoe and pickup have had small mechanical problems, under repair. Central VT Truck Repair says that they will have the red truck done by early next week. Backhoe and green truck have had scheduled maintenance. H. Childress moved to repair pressure washer; C. Haynes 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. C. Haynes moved to purchase 300 yards of sand from Chet McCullen at \$13/yard; T. Redfield 2nd. [*Ayes—H. Childress, C. Haynes, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nays—M. Lamson; motion carried*]

Road status: The 30-day complaint period for discontinuing Whites Road and Moyer Acres Road has now passed. When the Town files our annual roads certificate in February 2015, we will change the status of two discontinued roads; we will investigate how to file changes with property records.

Solid Waste: The Town's pay-as-you-throw policy has been sent to Pam Clapp. The Transfer Station will have to accept yard waste by July 1 2015. Large waste and metal disposal days have been set for May 2 (Green-up day) and October 3, 2015.

Correspondence: C. Haynes received a letter from Rutland Town seeking input on a resolution on solar farms; he'll bring it to next meeting.

Board Orders: H. Childress moves to approve board orders as presented except for charges from Bixby Fuel, M. Lamson 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Street lights: T. Redfield moves that H. Childress sign the Efficiency Vermont agreement for streetlighting modification on behalf of the Board, H. Childress 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Budget and Warning: H. Childress moved to approve a FY 2016 Town General budget of \$257,228, with \$190,800 to be raised by taxes [*all in favor, motion carried*]. T. Redfield moved to approve a FY2016 Highway budget of \$363,917, with \$294,917 to be raised by taxes, H. Childress 2nd. [*Ayes—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nays—C. Haynes; motion carried*]

Terry spoke with County Sheriff Steven Benard. There are no minimum number of hours for a contract. Most communities are paying \$35-36 per hour for contracted services. Ira, Poultney, Danby, Tinmouth and Middletown Springs could combine to fund a new full-time position. We can pursue joint conversations with these other communities and the Sheriff's Department.

M. Lamson moved to include the following petitioned article on the ballot: *Shall the Town of Middletown Springs vote to establish a contract with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department in order to provide law enforcement services, animal control, and safety to the town of Middletown Springs for 520 hours in Fiscal Year 2016 effective July 1, 2015?* S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

T. Redfield moved to have the Selectboard approve and sign the 2015 Warning for Town Meeting as presented; S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried].

Adjourn: T. Redfield moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 10:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk