

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • July 13, 2017**

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

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: none

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:06PM

Minutes: T. Redfield moved to approve minutes as presented of 6/22; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Town Officers: Treasurer Munyai presented the State's education tax rate for Middletown Springs: \$1.462 for non-homestead, \$1.4754 for homestead. We will discuss the overall 2017-18 tax rate at our next meeting. The "hold-harmless" rate (Current Use payments from the State) for the coming year will also be slightly above our budgeted \$40,000 income line, so that also will help the overall financial picture.

She also provided the Board with preliminary year-end account balances. Though there are small final transactions to complete and record, it appears that both the Town General expenditures and the Highway expenditures will be slightly below budget.

There are currently about \$145,000 in overdue property taxes. There are a number of very small balances that we will try to resolve without public action. For property with larger and long-standing balances, Town Clerk Castle will discuss a possible tax delinquency sale with the Town's attorney.

The treasurer and road foreman will meet this week to finalize reimbursements for grants for 2016-17 road construction projects.

There have been ongoing problems with the photocopier that the technicians have not been able to resolve. Roundcube has offered an upgraded contract for a new copier lease that better meets Town needs, at \$84.93 per month for 60 months, not in conjunction with the School's copier contract that we had formerly been attached to. H. Childress moved to accept the Roundcube copier contract; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Lands: the Building Committee sent representatives to meet with GMP to discuss the Town Office design as it relates to net-zero energy systems design. They also discussed larger issues of distributed-grid energy generation. GMP seemed interested in exploring a system that could provide emergency power backup for multiple town entities (the General Store, the Church, the VTel substation, etc.) through the design of the Town Office's energy system, and indicated that they have some

programs that we be able to take advantage of in providing a wider back-up area, though discussions are still in early stages.

The second water test at the Town Office property shows acceptable gross alpha and toluene levels, but still somewhat high radium levels; the Committee will discuss remediation options with the site engineer.

The West Street property needs to be brush-hogged; Chris will ask Rodney Tarbell to clear that property.

Road Foreman: The crew has been replacing culverts, using a new gray plastic material that's more durable than the previous black culverts.

DigSafe has missed a number of requests for jobsite flagging recently. Bill reports that they have a growing reputation among nearby communities for delayed marking and incorrect locations.

The grader came back in service today; the next time this particular part fails in the power coupler, it will probably require a replacement of the torque converter as well. The backhoe also has significant areas of wear that threaten component failure. Bill has received three bid packages for backhoes, from Liftech (JCB), Beauregard (Case), and Nortrax (Deere). Bill urged the Board to develop a revised equipment replacement cycle. H. Childress volunteered to develop an equipment analysis for the next meeting.

Bill will soon begin building the temporary road at the Garron box culvert construction site, and will be cleaning bridges. The crew will also be building shoulders at sites where guardrails need to be installed.

The big rains from last week didn't affect the Town roads much, although roads in surrounding towns were significantly damaged. With the grader back in service, some small repairs will be done in next few weeks. The Board gave appreciation to the highway crew for its maintenance and stormwater preparation.

The town has received nearly \$260,000 in highway construction grants for the 2017-18 year: Garron Road (roughly \$91K); Spruce Knob Road (\$19); and Norton Road (\$157K). Bill is working to define design and bid specs for Spruce Knob and Norton jobs; the Garron culvert project has been put out for bid, due July 20 to be reviewed by the Board at our meeting of 7/27.

Solid Waste: Food scrap containers are ready for use at the Transfer Station. Wheaton Squier of Timmouth will collect weekly for his composting business.

Correspondence:

- Sheriff's contract for 2017-18. H. Childress moved to accept this contract; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].
- Thank you letters from ARC Rutland; Mentor Connector; VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired; SW VT Council on Aging; and VT Center for Independent Living.
- Insurance contracts for fleet operation from Newport Sand & Gravel, Carroll Concrete, and Casella.
- Questionnaire for Town of Belmont MA about our experience with "pay-as-you-throw" waste disposal.
- Payment for collection of electronic waste (\$147.42).
- Advertisement for radar speed limit sign.

Board Orders: H. Childress moved to approve board orders as presented; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Other Business: Board members all arranged to get keys and password codes for the Town Office. Town Clerk will review list of keys and get outstanding keys back from prior Board members and others who are no longer public officials.

Executive Session: T. Redfield moved to enter executive session for personnel reviews; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session entered at 9:52 pm.

H. Childress moved to exit executive session; C. Fenton 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Regular session resumed at 10:06. Chris will discuss personnel reviews with Bill and Glen based on the Board's collective judgment.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 10:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk