

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting • July 27, 2017**

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

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** Old Cemetery Task Force (John Arsenault, Nora Rubinstein, David Wright); Sally Achey, Lister; Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Jenny Talke Muniyak, Treasurer; Bill Reed, Road Foreman.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** none

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve minutes of 7/13 as presented; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Town Officers:** Treasurer J. Muniyak presented draft tax rates for 2017-18: \$0.3525 for Town and \$0.3400 for Highway, totaling \$0.6925. When combined with the school rate of \$1.4754 (homestead) and \$1.4620 (non-resident), this makes a total 2017-18 tax rate of \$2.1545 for non-residents, and \$2.1679 for residents. H. Childress moved to adopt the proposed tax rates for 2017-18; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

The final Town surplus for 2016-17 was \$14,670. As per the vote at Town Meeting 2017, \$5,000 will be used to establish a tax stabilization fund, and \$9,670 will be deposited in the municipal facilities reserve fund.

Lister S. Achey requested that we set the penalty for late or missing homestead declaration, and proposed a 5% penalty as was the case last year as well. H. Childress moved to set a 5% penalty for not filing homestead declarations by the April 18 deadline; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Bids were opened for the Garron Road box culvert project at 7:08 pm. Three bids were received: Ashley Waite Foundations (\$69,480), Jack Bowen Excavating (\$77,160), and Alpine Construction (\$249,014). Discussion was held to later in the meeting.

**Public Lands:** The Cemetery Task Force presented their work to date, including what they've learned, experts they've conferred with, and preliminary recommendations for work and for funding. Early priorities include the Gardner monument, due to its significant leaning—remediation could require disassembly, disassembly and rebuild, or lifting and leveling. H. Childress moved to ask the task force to verify the preferred method of remediation and to receive estimates for the work as its first priority; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Another priority is trimming the major pine in the center of the cemetery, and the Task Force will continue to investigate strategies and contractors.

The task force is working on combining all of the surveys into a master document that will allow improved searching, links to Find-a-Grave, and track repairs or repair

requests. They will upload that as a working document for future boards and task forces to continue.

The task force has not yet uncovered any agreements made for perpetual care of individual or family plots. The Copeland Cemetery Fund is divided between the old cemetery and the Pleasant View cemetery, and the task force is looking for the founding documents to determine the percentages.

The task force wanted to commend Bobby Parker for his care in maintaining the cemetery grounds without damaging markers.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the task force's work, and looks forward to acting on its recommendations. Their next meeting is August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Building Committee met last week to review recent engineering information; no new decisions have been made.

**Road Foreman:** Bill met with Kitt Shaw to review laptops for highway business. H. Childress moved to purchase the Acer laptop, with two-year warranty, Microsoft Office, and a field case; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

T. Redfield moved to approve the plan for the relocation of electrical service to the Dorothy Reed property; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Bill has begun clearing for the temporary road for Garron Road construction. Bill has reviewed the bids received opened this evening. Based on low price and prior successful history with the Town, T. Redfield moved to award the Garron Road box culvert project to Waite Foundations; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Bill will write a letter to Garron Road residents to alert them to construction dates and weight limits during the project.

Josh Carvajal of ANR is working with Bill to develop a design for the Spruce Knob culvert replacement just northwest of Norton Road. This will be a 2018 project.

The crew has replaced small culverts and done stone lining of ditches. We should get the rented roadside mower during the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Highway Equipment:** Bill will ask Liftech for extended warranty information on the JCB backhoe.

**Solid Waste:** Terry and Glen have built sample bags to indicate \$1 (kitchen), \$2 (household) and \$3 (contractor) bag loads.

**Correspondence:**

- Service request to repair potholes on Burdock Ave. (Brent has completed this.)
- Service request to bury electrical lines at Dot Reed's under Firehouse Lane. (The Board approved this.)
- Statement from VT Department of Labor for unemployment.
- Notice of grants staff review from VT Financial Operations regarding state grants GR0712, BC1758, and BR0150.
- Certificate of compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

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

**Executive Session:** C. Fenton moved that the Board enter executive session for personnel issues; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting entered executive session at 9:34 PM.

Executive session ended at 9:46 PM. T. Redfield moved to approve the Town and Highway payroll schedule as prepared during 2017-18 budget deliberations, effective July 1, 2017; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

The first August meeting will be moved to Wednesday August 9 rather than Thursday 8/10. H. Childress will post this to Front Porch Forum, T. Redfield will post in physical locations.

**Adjourn:** H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk