

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting July 28, 2016 Approved**

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Herb Childress, C. Fenton, Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield, Jim Webber

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer; Sally Achey, Lister; Bill Reed, Road Commissioner/Foreman

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jim Philbrook, West Rutland ATV Club; Ron Masleh

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Minutes: P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 14; C. Fenton 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Comment: Jim Philbrook requested the expansion of ATV trails from Ira into Middletown, involving North Street and Spruce Knob Road, plus possibly a stretch of McIntyre Road. State regulations allow a town to designate certain roads as open to ATVs, and the clubs have signs they use to post open roads and safety cautions. The roads so designated would be open to all members of Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) affiliated clubs. T. Redfield will contact the select board of Ira to learn their experiences; Mr. Philbrook will return with a list of proposed roads to include in their request.

Ron Masleh came to learn the current status of work on the potential junk and junk vehicle ordinance; the Board intends to put the specifics of the proposed ordinance to a vote. Ron will work with H. Childress to contact nearby communities on their ordinances and experiences.

Town Officers: Sally Achey asked that we establish the 2016-17 late fees for filing homestead declarations. The state allows penalties of up to 3% if the non-residential rate is higher than the homestead rate, up to 8% if the non-residential rate is lower (as it will be for the coming tax year). H. Childress moved to hold the late fee for homestead declarations at 5%; J. Webber 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Treasurer Munyak presented the proposed tax rates for fiscal year 2016-17: \$0.3177 for Town general government, and \$0.3568 for Town highway, combining to \$0.6745 (last year's town and highway combined was \$0.723) . H. Childress moved to approve the Treasurer's proposed tax rates of \$0.3177 for general government, and \$0.3568 for highway; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Treasurer Munyak also presented the year-end financial statements for 2015-16. The general government had a surplus of \$33,400 (with that surplus used to reduce this year's tax rates, included in the calculations voted on above); the highway spending was on target.

Public Lands: The building committee is interviewing three energy modelers in early August, as required for the Efficiency Vermont program.

P. Kenyon moved to reimburse Emmett Francois for paint and materials for the Middletown Cemetery sign, and to thank him for his volunteer efforts; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

H. Childress moved to prohibit the posting of political signage on town-owned property; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. H. Childress will post on FPF.

Highway: Bill has taken a two-day course on trenching and trench safety. There is a new state policy on trenching safety and worksite soil collapse prevention, which will be distributed to town governments soon. It's possible that small communities may develop mutual-aid teams to help with small trenching projects, but it is also likely that larger trenching projects will be contracted to vendors who have more substantial safety equipment. Bill will investigate the possibility of collaborating with other nearby towns to purchase safety equipment, get training or oversee projects.

The replacement bucket for the backhoe has arrived; bushings and connections are still to come. Bill has had to replace two hydraulic hoses and a brake line on the grader, new bushings and grease fittings onto the backhoe. We bought a new lawnmower for use in the cemetery and the town office lawn. There has been some road repair work from the past few weeks' storms.

Bill has placed and dressed 420 yards of gravel on Fitzgerald, Dudley and Coy Hill roads. C. Fenton moved to authorize the purchase of another 440 yards of gravel for further summer/fall projects; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Bill has also ordered 300 gallons of calcium, but the delivery has not been confirmed because the vendor has not finalized a price.

The Dayton Hill project (funded by a Better Back Roads grant) will probably begin the week of August 6th.

The final bill has arrived for the North Street paving project, about \$2000 under budget.

Solid Waste: There are now new regulations for handling and labeling electronic waste, which prohibit scavenging of parts. Glen has been part of a conference call on the new rules and procedures.

Correspondence: groSolar has filed its certificate of public good, and several public comments have been received; these have all been collected in the town office. We received an invoice from NorTrax for backhoe bucket, and an invoice from Cargill for salt at \$79.06

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

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; C. Fenton 2nd [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 9:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Select Board Clerk