

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
July 9, 2015 Meeting Approved**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield, J. Webber

PUBLIC PRESENT: Laura Castle, Jenny Talke Munyak, Bill Reed, Matt Riley, Nora Rubinstein, Ed Updike

Approval of Minutes: J. Webber moved to approve the minutes of June 25, with changes to spelling; M. Lamson 2nd. [*all in favor, motion carried*]

Public Comments: Poultney Riverwalk committee. [M. Lamson recused himself from Board deliberation so as to represent the work of the committee.] The committee has been discussing the possibility of applying for grant funding for a scoping study for a bike/trail. The proposal has been completed, with a map of a proposed trail route; the proposal would entail a 10% town match, for a project for proposed cost of roughly \$20,000 to \$35,000. If approved, VTRANS would assign a consultant to work with the town, with the process beginning about one year after the Town accepts the grant. The scoping study involves surveying the proposed trail route; identifying natural barriers (wetlands or other sensitive areas); assessing public benefit; determining landowner acceptance or opposition; and conduct of a public meeting to present the likely project and respond to public questions. A successful scoping study would also make us more competitive for construction grants in the future.

Proposal must be submitted by July 17, with approvals issued in mid to late August. The Riverwalk committee will solicit public input if the grant is awarded prior to the Town's acceptance of the grant.

H. Childress moved to submit a funding proposal to VTRANS for a scoping study for a possible bike and pedestrian trail, which would include a 10% town contribution equaling \$2,000 to \$3,500 if the grant is approved and accepted; T. Redfield 2nd. [*Ayes—H. Childress, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nays—J. Webber; Recused—M. Lamson; motion carried*].

Town Officers: The treasurer reported that the FY2015 report is near complete, with the Auditors reconciling the bank statements now. There are still final expenses to be billed to the FY2015 budget (final payroll, contributions to reserve funds, purchase of sign posts, etc.).

At the next meeting, we will review the finalized 2015 budget year, and set the proposed tax rates for FY2016 (see Correspondence). The 7/23 meeting will begin at 6:30 in order to have additional working time.

Town Lands: The planting and grass seeding at the corner lot has been completed and looks terrific; the Board expressed appreciation to the volunteers who did that work.

The Fire Association is proposing to build a 12' x 24' portable shed for storage plus a truck-fuel tank; the Board, Road Commissioner and Church board have had conversations about exact siting concerns.

Road Commissioner Report: The crew has been grading and ditching; replacing and resetting culverts; and repairing building and grounds. Earle's has provided a quote for \$6280.12 for repairs of the 7600; some of the work has been completed. Windshield replacement for the one-ton in preparation for inspection; a sensor will need to be replaced at Alderman's (warranty covered). Backhoe service has just been completed.

Bill will ask the VTAOT engineer to set up a field visit for the washing over 133 at Daisy Hollow, with Bill, Herb and Terry in attendance to review remediation possibilities.

New Truck Specs: Bill has received quotes on seven new (2015 or 2016) trucks, at a set-up, delivered cost ranging from \$137,200 to \$173,430; we are still waiting on a quote from Western Star. Most towns are moving toward automatic transmissions. Bill's recommendation is for the Freightliner with the automatic transmission, at a set-up cost of \$140,720; the sales rep for Freightliner is reviewing our existing 7400 truck for a trade-in proposal. Bill will bring final numbers to the 7/23 meeting for Board review and decision.

White's Road repairs/reseeding: the grant proposal for erosion control is still undetermined, so the project has not yet been scheduled.

North Street Box Culvert: Ashley Waite is asking for a payment schedule for the excavation and culvert project. Jenny will investigate a loan for the project, since the grant that funds the project is reimbursement-based, so the State will not pay the Town until after the Town has spent money on the project. Bill will begin building the temporary road on Monday 7/13; we have received easements for that construction from all affected property owners, which the Board chair has signed.

Solid Waste: Leaf and Lawn Waste collection will be available at the Transfer Station as of Saturday 7/11. Recycling bin will also be available in the Town Office.

Correspondence: H. Childress moved to approve the Leon Corey Excavation overweight permit, T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. We have received the VT Department of Tax estimated education tax rates for FY2016: non-residential \$1.4946, homestead rate \$1.7615.

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

Personnel Issues: final personnel reviews will occur at a special Board meeting set for 7:00 pm Thursday July 16.

T. Redfield moved to enter executive session at 10:28 to discuss confidential personnel

matters, inviting Bill Reed and Laura Castle to participate; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. J. Webber moved to exit executive session, H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session concluded at 10:39 pm. No action taken.

H. Childress moved to adjourn; J. Webber 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 10:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk