

**Middletown Springs Select Board • Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting • March 9, 2017**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** H. Childress, C. Fenton (arrived 7:11pm), P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** S. Achey, Lister; L. Castle, Town Clerk; J. Munyak, Treasurer; B. Reed, Road Foreman

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Ron Masleh

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:03 pm by Town Clerk Laura Castle

**Nominations for officers:**

- H. Childress nominated Chris Fenton to be chair for the 2017-18 Board Year; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. [*note: when Chris arrived, he accepted his nomination.*]
- Nominations for vice-chair: P. Kenyon nominated Terry Redfield as vice-chair; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].
- T. Redfield nominated Herb Childress as clerk; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Vice-Chair Terry Redfield assumed chairship over the meeting.

**Town Meeting, and Nomination of Other Town Officers:** The Board recognized Town Clerk Laura Castle for her administration of the election.

The write-in candidates have not yet been tallied; the Town Clerk will provide us with write-in votes so that the Board can determine the interest of leading vote-getters and verify their appointments.

**Approval of Minutes:** P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of 2/23; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of 3/2 special meeting; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Town Officers:** Sally Achey offered VT Form 4157 to close the Grand List of 2016. H. Childress moved to accept the closure of the 2016 Grand List; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Treasurer Munyak provided financial reports through February. The tabulator programming and ballots totaled roughly \$3,200 for Town Meeting, because of the number and complexity of ballots. She also raised the question of the annual fee for the Town's dam; now that the Town has acquired that property through tax forfeiture, we will be annually billed (roughly \$200) for the dam.

**Public Comment:** Ron Masleh asked the Town to reduce its printing costs by reducing the size and scope of the Town Report, bringing copies of Manchester's and Wallingford's reports for comparison.

Ron also asked that any revenues from the junk vehicle enforcement be applied to a fund for future legal expenses. H. Childress explained that there is currently no reserve fund for legal expenses, but that both the income and expenses will be a component of Town General Government.

Jenny Muniak (as a citizen) expressed concern over not having an active fifth Select Board member in the town, both for reasons of overwork and of loss of a broader perspective. That absent Board member was elected by voters who expected him to conduct the work of the Town.

Terry Redfield proposed a Board policy that all elected Select Board members must attend a minimum of three-quarters of regular, special, emergency or other routine Board functions to receive any remuneration from the Town; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The Board will forward this adopted policy to the Auditors for implementation.

**Town Lands:** The Building Committee will develop a recommendation at its next meeting for hiring an MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) engineer, a structural engineer and an estimator. This will allow us to move into design development for better estimation of costs and schedules, thus allowing fundraising to be pursued in detail. The water test from the new well showed toluene levels slightly high (possibly due to the drilling process—this will be retested).

The Building Committee thanked the Board for putting the facilities funding directly into the budget, which saved them considerable labor and mailing costs.

Three Building Committee members visited three relatively recent town offices (Waterbury, Moretown, and Waitsfield) as part of their trip on Friday 3/3 to interview one of the possible estimators. Moretown moved into their office (2,000 sf) and found it immediately to be too small for their functions.

The Select Board will work to update the capital facilities inventory and plan, most recently been done in 2006.

**Road Foreman:** Bill thanked Bobby and Brent for their work while he was away for family leave. Bill may have to take additional family leave within the next few months. The crew has been putting stone into mud holes, but they've also had icing from rain and cold, which has made progress uncertain and unsteady in some locations. This unusual winter weather has created a very complex set of circumstances for road maintenance.

The grader should be back to us roughly mid-April; Bill is going to bring a proposal for renting a grader if the roads start to dry sooner than we have our grader back.

The prediction for next Tuesday and Wednesday is for 6" to 12" of snow, and the dirt roads won't be easily plowable because the composition is so soft. Bill is planning on keeping the paved roads clear, but it may be that snow on the unpaved roads will just be compacted and sand/salted.

Bill is working on reimbursement for last year's two grants, and is at work on submitting three grant proposals for this year. He will be developing a bid package for the box culvert on Garron Road by late April.

T. Redfield moved to allow the Road Foreman to post roads for mud season (through May 15<sup>th</sup>) as road conditions warrant; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Correspondence:**

- H. Childress moved to approve the overweight permit requests from United Natural Foods and from Markowski Excavation; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].
- An announcement from Vermont Prevent Child Abuse.
- An announcement from VLCT for Spring Selectboard Institute.
- An announcement from VT Department of Health asking for a renewal of our Town Health Officer; Terry will ask Carl if he wants to continue.
- A notice from VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force for 2017 grants on new dry hydrants.

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

**Other Business:** H. Childress moved that, based on the voters' approval of Ballot Article 6 at Town Meeting, the Select Board adopt the proposed civic ordinance regulating the outdoor storage of junk and junk vehicles; C. Fenton 2<sup>nd</sup> [*Aye—H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon; Nay—T. Redfield; motion carried*].

The Board has approved this ordinance based on the will of the community. However, the Board also wants to be clear about its reservations. We have approved this ordinance with the understanding that its adoption introduces significant potential for financial impacts on the community for legal and enforcement costs; and that it raises the possibility for disruption of civility and neighborliness.

H. Childress distributed draft procedures and complaint forms for board review. Once the Board agrees with the procedures and forms, we will ask for legal advice.

H. Childress moved to provide \$400 for the Rutland County Parent-Child Center for fiscal year 2017-18; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [all in favor, motion carried].

An electrician ran a new dedicated circuit to the Town Office copier, which we hope will improve the copier operation, but the lights in the office are also flickering. The poor voltage regulation may be a poor connection from the utility, or a problem at the transformer.

**Board Responsibilities:** Individual Board members have selected their areas of focus for the 2017-18 year.

- H. Childress—Policies coordination
- T. Redfield and C. Fenton—Town Lands (uses and needs)
- P. Kenyon—Solid Waste Liaison

**Adjourn:** meeting adjourned by consent at 10:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Board Clerk