

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
May 14, 2015 Meeting Approved**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:01 pm

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ron Masleh, David Munyak, Jenny Talke Munyak, Bill Reed, Els Van Woert

Approval of Minutes: M. Lamson moved to approve minutes from April 23 regular and May 7 special meetings; J. Webber 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Comments:

- Ron Masleh delivered a letter with regards to the need for clearing private property of waste material. (See attached letter at end of minutes). The letter will also be provided to the Historical Society.
- Els Van Woert, SunCommon, presented their programs on community solar installations. SunCommon has helped 1,300 families install solar with their financial assistance and consultations; now they're doing community solar, at the scale of an acre or less, with community advisory and "good neighbor agreements." They look for "land hosts" for small installations that a number of homes can sign up to draw power from. Each community solar project can have 25-30 members who receive electrical reductions and ownership stake in the array. SunCommon will be working in the region, and is looking for advice in working with Middletown Springs for possible hosting locations.

Town Officers: Jenny Talke Munyak delivered the end-of-April summary, reminding us that the fiscal year ends on June 30 and asking us to be cautious for the remainder of the year. The Auditors are prepared to take over the reconciliation of bank statements from now onward. A proposed tax rate for 2015-16 will be coming forth in July after Listers have completed their updates.

Town Lands: Dave Munyak presented two proposals for short-term site improvements at the corner; both involve grading, gravel, soil and seeding, in different patterns. Both schemes allow for a bit of parking and school-bus pull-through as well as some green area. M. Lamson moved to authorize the use of Town resources to improve the aesthetics of the future town office site, using donated materials and volunteer labor where possible; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The revised well and septic application has been filed with the State, and should be approved soon.

Road Commissioner Report: M. Lamson will look into mowing contracts for the West Street property for this summer. The Highway crew will maintain the grass area of the future Town Office building.

H. Childress will work with VLCT to determine how benefits changes should be modified based on the adoption of the new personnel policy.

The grading has been difficult this year, with late frost coming up through the roads to draw mud problems further into the spring. Four culverts need to be replaced on Fitzgerald Road, within the next two weeks. T. Redfield moved to authorize Bill to purchase up to \$2474 in processed gravel for repair and grading; M. Lamson 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. We will also purchase 3000 gallons of road calcium, and contract for the annual roadside mowing.

Bill has applied for a \$4,000 grant from Better Back Roads, to do culvert inventories, road surface inventories, and capital budgeting plan (through Rutland Regional Transportation). He is also applying for a grant for roadside erosion control.

We have received Service Request forms having to do with wing-plow damage to lawn edges. We will be more explicit this winter about the mutual responsibilities of property owners and the Highway crew for road edges, and ensuring that grass planting doesn't encroach on road right-of-ways.

The Board signed the annual Vermont Agency of Transportation Financial Plan for fiscal year 2016.

North Street Box Culvert: Bill has prepared a bid invitation for the excavation related to the box culvert project on North Street, to be posted late in May for bids to review by the Board at its June 11th meeting.

Solid Waste: Large Item and Metal Waste day on May 2nd was very popular—so popular that there were traffic management problems, and some persons making multiple visits. The Board will be developing processes to attempt to ease some of the problems of this year in preparation for the fall collection date.

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

Legal: The deadline has passed for modifications to the Town's Current Use Plan assessments, but will be making amendments for next year to Current Use exemptions for locations immediately adjacent to structures. Gary Kupferer has created a letter in response to the Pepperman's communication of April 29.

Maria & Bob Riley have completed a report for the dog bite incident, and documentation for the animal control file will be completed.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn, T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor motion carried*]
Meeting adjourned 10:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, clerk

Letter from Ron Masleh

To The Select Board

May 14, 2015

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS LETTER AS PART OF YOUR MINUTES FOR TODAY.

This past week we observed Green Up Day here in Vermont. I'm sure to most observers, it appeared to be a great success. But, locally, I have reservations. In Middletown Springs, we have much to do. Our town is undertaking the building of a new Library and Town office. Planners are creating a new Town Plan. And we are producing a new economic study for the village.

All of this sends positive signals for the future. But, is it realistic? Or is it short-sighted? While we talk about greening up Vermont, we are surrounded by decay here in our very own town... physical decay all around us. Our town center needs serious attention. Unfortunately, the actions of a few are impacting all of us in a profoundly negative and destructive way. Put simply, state laws are being broken. This Board cannot push this problem to the "back burner" any longer. It is time for action!

If Mr. Copeland were to return from the grave, he would be appalled by the current condition of the town he loved so much. His love was so abiding, he established a fund to help our farmers—tens of thousands of dollars to help these important local citizens. Where is the civic pride so dramatically displayed by Mr. Copeland?

Have we no pride?

Please help by taking action now to turn Middletown Springs in the direction it should go... a direction all of our residents strongly want.

Thank you.

Ron Masleh
South Street, Middletown Springs