

**Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes  
Regular Meeting November 22, 2016 Approved**

**SELECT BOARD PRESENT:** H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield  
**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Bill Reed, Road Foreman  
(arr. 7:30)  
**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Chris Smid, School Board and Volunteer Fire Association  
**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**Minutes:** C. Fenton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 10; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Public Comment:** Chris Smid visited from the Volunteer Fire Association to continue conversations about firehouse building maintenance. The Fire Association is questioning whether the Town might release ownership of the land beneath the firehouse so that they might be better able to access loans. The Board discussed possibilities of releasing that land, but needs to go back into the original 99-year lease agreement to discover exactly why the agreement was originally structured in that way. The Board agreed to continue investigation of possibilities and ramifications, and Chris will return with further information from the Fire Association.

Chris Smid also visited as a representative of the School Board to inform that articles of agreement between Middletown Springs and Wells school districts to form a single "Wellspring" district have been drafted but not yet finalized. If the Middletown Springs Elementary School were to cease operations, the Town would reclaim ownership of the building. If the Town sold the building for other than municipal operations within five years of taking possession, the Town would reimburse the school district for any improvements that the school had made. P. Kenyon urged that the playground status be clarified as well.

**Town Officers:** There was a power failure at the Town Office on Monday 11/21; loss of heat, alarm went off; took roughly four hours to recover from. Two people have fallen coming into the building in the past few days.

**Public Lands:** Building Committee met, worked on Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing (MEP) engineering plan. The Building Committee will bring recommendations for engineering contracts in the next few weeks.

**Highway:** The new truck ran wonderfully during the year's first storm. The one-ton blew a hydraulic hose at the preparation for the storm, was out of service for the weekend. The 7600 also blew a hydraulic line on the first plowing pass. But the new truck ran through the whole storm without any chains.

The loader worked well to mix the sand-salt pile before the storm. Bill's opinion is that we should purchase it; it's just a lot faster to do the mix and to carry materials to large job sites. C. Fenton moved that the Town purchase the loader for \$25,000 total purchase price from Winmill Equipment; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*Aye—C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield; Nay—H. Childress; motion carried*].

Dayton Hill and Coy Hill road projects are now complete.

The potential road maintenance worker we were interested in hiring has not yet responded to our offer.

The Board reviewed a potential Winter Operations policy. T. Redfield moved to adopt the Winter Operations policy as presented; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. This policy is now in effect, and can be viewed at the Town Office in the policies binder.

**Solid Waste:** T. Redfield went to the solid waste meeting for composting haulers; approximately 15 prospective haulers were in attendance.

**Correspondence:** Invitation to breakfast meeting with Mentor Connector; rates for Rutland County Sheriff's Department for 2017; VLCT dues for 2017; request for data from Federal data consolidation project. Also received an e-mail from Nina Dubois about possible service as an animal control officer; Terry will contact her.

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

**Executive Session:** T. Redfield moved to enter executive session, H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session entered at 9:00 PM. H. Childress moved to exit executive session, C. Fenton [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Regular session rejoined at 9:55 PM. No formal action taken on executive session conversation.

The December 8 Select Board meeting will begin at 6 PM rather than 7, to allow the beginning of work on the 2017-18 budget.

**Adjourn:** H. Childress moved to adjourn [*accepted by consent*]. Meeting adjourned 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Select Board Clerk