

Middletown Springs Select Board Minutes
Regular Meeting September 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
(arrived 8:45)

PUBLIC PRESENT: none

VISITORS PRESENT: Jonas Rosenthal, Wells

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:04 PM

Minutes: C. Fenton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 8; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Public Comment: Jonas Rosenthal, candidate for Rutland/Bennington State Representative, came to introduce himself. He decided to run for state rep because he's concerned about spending at the local and state scale, and increased fees for many business and municipal functions. He also believes that Act 46 (school consolidation) was passed without sufficient deliberation or even understanding of its contents or implications, which he believes are much more difficult to bear for rural communities.

As town manager of Poultney, he's been responsible for delivering water, wastewater, solid waste, and other municipal services. He foresees some infrastructure needs around the solid waste mandates from the State, leaving one waste provider in position to have greater dominance in the market, with possible higher costs. The ANR has issued a statement of an unmet infrastructure need of roughly \$20M to provide coming solid waste services. He believes that the state also has unrealistic plans for reducing contaminants in the recycling stream, placing enforcement burdens on the community.

Town Officers: The vote tabulator has been delivered and pre-tested, with first training for the Town Clerk and three other BCA members on 9/21. It will be employed for the November election, although the Justice of the Peace ballots will still be hand counted for this election. The tabulator technician for Rutland County will be stationed in Middletown Springs on this election day, since MS is the newest client.

The Trustees of the Lewis Fund and Other Public Moneys have not met recently to make a dispersion of funds; the Library Trustees have asked for a status update and plan for next steps. We will also ask the Auditors to discuss their understanding of current status.

The Board is also developing an outreach program to enlist a full slate of candidates for all Town positions for 2017 election.

Public Lands: There was no formal meeting of the Building Committee last week. We may need an additional verification to determine the final location of well drilling.

The West Street property has not yet been brush-hogged for solid waste; Bud Krouse will do the work this week prior to Hubbard placing the dumpsters on Friday September 30 (two for solid waste and one for metal, with two additional on reserve).

Highway: Bill left a road commissioner report indicating further work on Coy Hill, Dayton Hill, North Street and Norton; grading and calcium work; additional street sign replacement.

Solid Waste: A reminder of large waste and scrap metal collection day on Saturday October 1 at the West Street property, 6am to noon, \$5 per vehicle load flat fee. Items with refrigerant (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.) will be accepted, but must be kept separate from other scrap metal.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Webber, Chapman & Kupferer indicating resolution and close of the Riedinger legal matter.
- BCBSVT letter about closure of former employee health benefits.
- Letter from RRPC indicating that they will not intervene at this time in the proposed Orchard Road solar project.
- Letter from Tom Hurcomb/ Planning Commission updating the Town's information for RRPC. P. Kenyon moved to approve John Arsenault and Tom Hurcomb as the Planning Commission's representatives to the RRPC; H. Childress 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. We are investigating the current transportation committee representative, and may need to approve a new person for that role.
- One application for highway maintenance crew member.
- VLCT information about 2016 election oversight.
- Notice from VT Department of Environmental Conservation, indicating that the Coy Brook dam is in poor condition and advising that the Town pursue removal of the dam.
- Service request form for cutting back obstructing plants at Pleasant View Road.

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

Other Business: All reports from Town committees and supported non-profit agencies must be received at the Town Office no later than Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Town Meeting 2017 will be Monday, March 6, with the election on Tuesday, March 7; the forty-day notice for warning town meeting makes the warning date Wednesday, January 25th. The Board will accept price quotes from anyone interested in producing the Town Report, and will post a scope of work and call for quotes on Front Porch Forum.

The Board will reach out to all budget area managers to get input prior to the creation of the 2017-18 budget.

The Board's current intention around the ATV request is to warn an article for 2017 town meeting, based on the model ordinance created by VLCT, to solicit the opinion of the full citizenry. The Board will also draft an ordinance based on the VLCT model to address junk and junk vehicles, also to be warned as a 2017 town meeting article.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; C. Fenton 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].
Meeting adjourned 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Select Board Clerk