

The February 2015 Middletown Magnet

"News that sticks in Middletown Springs"



Town Meeting 2015

Look for Candidates on Page 4

Town of Middletown Springs WARNING Town Meeting—March 2-3, 2015

The voters of the Town of Middletown Springs, in the County of Rutland, State of Vermont, who are legally qualified to vote at Town Meeting are hereby warned to meet at the Middletown Springs Elementary School (MSES) Multipurpose Room, in said Town, on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of being provided information and to allow for the discussion of the Articles to be voted on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. At conclusion, the Informational Meeting will be recessed until 7:00 a.m. on the following day, March 3, 2015 at which time business involving voting by Australian Ballot and voting required by law to be by ballot will be transacted at the Firehouse Hall.

**POLLS WILL BE OPEN MARCH 3, 2015,
FROM 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M.**

1. To elect Town Officers as provided by Vermont Law.
2. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs accept the report prepared by the Town Auditors?
3. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs appropriate \$257,228 for the general operation of the town, the sum of \$190,800 to be raised by taxes on the 2015 Grand List of the Town of Middletown Springs for the fiscal year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016?
4. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs appropriate \$363,917 for the care and maintenance of highways, the sum of \$294,917 to be raised by taxes on the 2015 Grand List of the Town of Middletown Springs for the fiscal year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016?
5. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in the Reserve Fund for Town Municipal Facilities to be used for design, construction, improvement, or relocation of town facilities including the Town Office?
6. Shall the Town of Middletown Springs vote to establish a contract with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department in order to provide law enforcement services, animal control, and safety to the town of Middletown Springs for 520 hours in Fiscal Year 2016 effective July 1, 2015.

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MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

Annual School District Meeting - March 2, 2015

The legal voters of the Town School District of Middletown Springs, in the County of Rutland, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Middletown Springs Elementary School in said Town, on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of being provided information and to discuss the Articles which will be voted Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The informational meeting will be recessed until 7:00 a.m. the following day, March 3, 2015, to the Middletown Springs Firehouse Hall, at which time business of voting by Australian ballot and voting required by law to be by ballot will be transacted upon the following articles:

Article 1: To elect school district officers as provided by law:

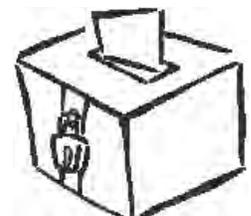
- School Director for a 2-Year Term
- School Director for a 3-Year Term
- Moderator (1-Year)
- School District Clerk (3-Year)
- School District Treasurer (3-Year)

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Middletown Springs Town School District authorize the school board to expend \$2,380,730.92 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the 2015-2016 fiscal year?

Article 3: To transact any other lawful business.

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. March 3, 2015.

*Clarence Haynes, Chair
Meredith Morgan, Vice Chair
Jennelle Carr, Member
Christopher Smid, Member
Sarah Haley, Clerk*



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7. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs appropriate a sum not to exceed \$20,000 for contract law enforcement to be raised by taxes on the 2015 Grand List of the Town of Middletown Springs for the fiscal year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016?
8. The Selectboard has discussed the possibility of creating new walking and biking routes in the town. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs support the Selectboard in conducting a feasibility study for the creation of a hardpack walking-running-biking trail along areas of the Poultney River?
9. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs appropriate up to \$20,000 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to conduct an external financial audit of Town and Highway finances pertaining to the 2014-2015 fiscal year?
10. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs vote to allow the use of vote tabulator machines?
11. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year General Fund to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?
12. Shall the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$80,000 for the Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department determining that the program serves the residents of the town with fire protection and emergency response services?
13. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$400 for the support of the NeighborWorks of Western Vermont determining that the program serves the residents of the town with home-buyer education and energy efficiency services?
14. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$1,500 for the support of the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice determining that the program serves the residents of the town with home and community health services?
15. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$867 for the support of Rutland Area Community Services determining that the program serves the residents of the town with counseling, substance abuse and emergency services?
16. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$200 for the support of RSVP and The Volunteer Center determining that the program serves the residents of the town with volunteering opportunities and services such as bone building classes?
17. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$100 for the support of the Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter determining

- that the program serves the residents of the town with a crisis hot line, domestic violence and rape assistance?
18. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$200 for the support of the Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) determining that the program serves the residents of the town with fuel assistance, USDA commodities, emergency food and financial assistance?
19. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$100 for the support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living determining that the program serves the residents of the town with services including Meals on Wheels and home handicap access?
20. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$500 for the support of ARC - Rutland Area determining that the program serves the residents of the town with services to citizens with developmental disabilities and their families?
21. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$300 for the support of the Vermont Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired determining that the program serves the residents of the town with services to enable the blind and visually impaired to achieve and maintain independence?
22. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$250 for the support of the American Red Cross of Vermont & the New Hampshire Upper Valley determining that the program serves the residents of the town with emergency services?
23. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$750 for the support of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging determining that the program serves the residents of the town with meal support, case management, information and other assistance?
24. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$125 for the support of Rutland County Humane Society determining that the program serves the residents of the town with care for neglected, abused and surrendered animals?
25. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$375 for the support of the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service determining that the program serves the residents of the town with emergency life support and transport services?
26. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$50 for the support of the Vermont Green-Up Day determining that the program serves the residents of the town by provisioning and organizing Green Up Day?

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continued from page 2...

27. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$750 for the support of the Rutland County Parent Child Center determining that the program serves the residents of the town with child visitation services?
28. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$500 for the support of the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District determining that the program serves the residents of the town with assistance to preserve natural resources?
29. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$400 for the support of the Poultney Community League determining that the program serves the residents of the town with youth sports programs?
30. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$4,500 for the support of Middletown Springs First Response determining that the program serves the residents of the town with emergency life support and medical services?
31. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$4,300 for the support of Poultney Rescue Squad determining that the program serves the residents of the town with emergency life support and transport services?
32. Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs deem necessary and appropriate \$100 for the support of Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council (formerly George D. Aiken RC&D Council) determining that the program serves the residents of the town with road and fire protection grant programs including the Better Back Roads grants and dry-hydrant grants?
33. To transact any other business proper to be before said meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

<i>Carl Haynes, Chair</i>	<i>Herb Childress, Clerk</i>
<i>Terry Redfield, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Mike Lamson</i>
<i>Shirley Moyer</i>	



Town Meeting 2015 Tuesday March 3, 2015

Town meeting happens every year on the first Tuesday in March. A form of government that exists nowhere else in the world outside of New England, town meeting involves direct citizen lawmaking—true government by the governed. We should feel lucky to live in a place with this unique kind of local government, and community, and we should all do our best to take part. For *A Citizen's Guide to Town Meeting* go to www.sec.state.vt.us/media/78384/Citizen-Guide-Text-2-.pdf

Dates to Remember!

- **Wednesday, February 25:** Deadline to Register to Vote *Town Office open until 5 p.m.*
- **Monday, March 2:** Deadline to vote by Early or Absentee Ballot. *Town Office open until 5 p.m.*
- **Monday, March 2:** Pre-Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the School.
- **Tuesday, March 3:** Town Meeting Vote!
Polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Town Meeting Food Sale!

*Come to the Building Committee's
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2015 Town Meeting Candidates for Office

OFFICE	TERM	CANDIDATES
Moderator	1 year	<i>Raymond "Tony" Lamberton</i>
Town Clerk	3 years	<i>Laura Ann Castle</i>
Town Treasurer	3 years	<i>Jennifer Talke Munyak</i>
Town Agent	1 year	<i>No Candidates</i>
First Constable <i>(unexpired 2 yr term)</i>	1 year	<i>James P. Reed</i>
Tax Collector	3 years	<i>Laura Ann Castle</i>
Selectman	3 years	<i>Jim Webber</i>
Selectman	2 years	<i>Terry Redfield</i> <i>Jim Webber</i>
Road Commissioner	3 years	<i>Carl P. Haynes</i>
Lister	3 years	<i>Sally Achey</i>
Auditor	2 years	<i>No Candidates</i>
Auditor	1 year	<i>No Candidates</i>
Library Trustee	3 years	<i>Kristal Hier</i> <i>Alida Tarbell</i> <i>Maynard Yost</i>
Town Grand Juror	1 year	<i>David Munyak</i>
Trustee of Copeland Church Fund	1 year	<i>Daniel McKeen</i>
Trustee of Copeland Cemetery Fund	1 year	<i>No Candidates</i>
Trustee of Louis Fund & Other Public Monies	3 years	<i>Alice Hoisington</i>
Trustee of Louis Fund & Other Public Monies <i>(unexpired 3 yr term)</i>	1 years	<i>No Candidates</i>
Planning Commission	3 years	<i>No Candidates</i>
School Moderator	1 year	<i>Raymond "Tony" Lamberton</i>
School District Clerk	3 years	<i>No Candidates</i>
School District Treasurer	3 years	<i>Jennifer Talke Munyak</i>
School Director	3 years	<i>Jennelle Carr</i>
School Director	2 years	<i>Christopher Smid</i>



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From the Town Treasurer:



One more month to go until 3rd Quarter Property Taxes are due.

3rd Quarter property taxes are due on or before Monday, March 16th - since the 15th is on a Sunday, you have one extra day this quarter! You can remit your taxes in person, or mail them with a March 16, or earlier, postmark. Remember any taxes remitted or postmarked after the 16th, will immediately incur a 1% interest charge.

The Treasurer will be available at the town office to collect your taxes on Monday March 16th until 4 pm.

But, you don't have to wait until the last moment to submit taxes, it's okay to remit them prior to the 16th.

Tax checks should be paid to: The Town of Middletown Springs and mailed to PO Box 1022.

On another note, as you prepare your income taxes for the government, please also remember that you need to submit your homestead declaration form to the state by 4/15/15. Your declaration will affect your new tax rate for FY15/16 and failure to comply on time may incur penalties. For more information regarding the homestead declaration, please contact the State of Vermont, or visit their website.

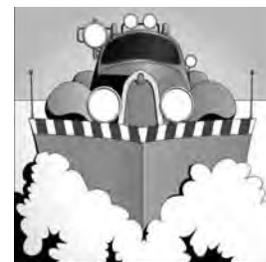
Any questions, call Jenny at 235-3256. Thank You!



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spring is coming,
spring is coming...



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School Budget and the Path Forward

As many of you are aware, Vermont's educational system is at a crossroads. Rising education costs and decreasing support from the general fund have increased the role property taxes play in funding education. With taxes climbing ever higher, Vermont's system of school governance has come under increasing scrutiny. Proposals to consolidate and reorganize school buildings, school districts and supervisory unions have been put forward by many stakeholders- all with the shared goals of reducing costs and increasing student opportunity. While no one plan has emerged as a favorite, school governance and education finance reform are top priorities for the Vermont Legislature this session.

Here at the local level, the school board of directors is keenly aware of the relationship between education spending and property taxes. We are working to explore better governance systems and to contain costs- all while improving the educational opportunities for our children.

Improved Governance

As you may have read on Front Porch Forum or in the Lakes Region Free Press insert, the Middletown Springs School Board has engaged the services of a specialist from the Vermont School Boards Association to help us develop several possible paths forward for our school district. In the coming months, these concepts will be brought to the community for discussion and input. Through a thoughtful and deliberate process our community can rise to the challenge of delivering an excellent education AND reasonable property taxes.

Cost Containment

The proposed Middletown Springs School District budget for FY16 has total expenses of \$2,380,730.92, up \$91,002 or 3.97% over FY15. Of this \$91,002 increase, 69% (\$62,365) is from an increase in secondary school expenses, and 30% (\$27,687) is from an increase in special education expenses. Total regular elementary expense, the portion of the budget directly under the school board's control, went up only \$949, less than a tenth of a percent. Since compensation for teachers and staff makes up nearly 80% of the budget and is set by multi-year contracts, our principal, superintendent, business manager and school board did an excellent job of keeping regular elementary expenses flat.

Secondary school choice is highly valued in our community, but as a school district we have no say in the

budget development process at the schools our students attend- we are simply obligated to pay their announced tuition rates. For 2016, the school district will be paying tuition rates of \$15,746 at Mill River, \$16,300 at West Rutland, \$9,459 at Poultney and \$14,164 at Long Trail and LiHigh.

Similarly, special education expenditures are dictated by the needs of our students, and the state and federal rules which describe how those needs are to be met. The school district has little to no control over these costs.

Further complicating the proposed FY16 budget is a deficit from last fiscal year. Approximately 12 new secondary students moved into Middletown Springs AFTER the budget had been set, adding unanticipated costs of roughly \$175,000. The school administration and school board were able to cut costs and find savings to offset a majority of this unexpected expense, but \$48,053 remains as a deficit that must be paid.

No matter how well we manage our regular elementary education expenses, any savings we can achieve locally will be dwarfed by steadily rising secondary costs, continually increasing special education expenses and unpredictable swings in secondary school populations.

It is increasingly clear that our school district's current path is unsustainable financially. While change can be uncomfortable and messy, it is time to explore our options. We will be scheduling special meetings later in the year, but your input is welcome at any time. Please come to any of our regularly scheduled meetings, or contact a board member directly.

Respectfully,
the Middletown Springs School Board

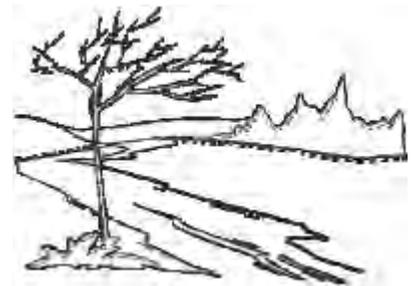
Clarence Haynes, chair

Meredith Morgan

Christopher Smid

Sarah Haley

Jennelle Carr



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Board of School Directors Meeting January 20, 2015 UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Present: Clarence Haynes (Chair), Meredith Morgan (Vice-Chair), Christopher Smid, Jennelle Carr (Members). Also Present: Joan Paustian (Supt.), Rick Beal (Principal), Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary). Harry Frank (Associate Director of the VSBA) arrived at 6:57PM.

Public Present: None

1. Call to Order: Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

2. Additions, Deletions, Changes to Agenda: Personnel items need to be added under #10 per Supt. Paustian.

3. Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes –December 2014: Jennelle Carr moved to approve the meeting minutes of Dec. 15 2014, with the following correction: Chris Smid is not the Clerk, Sarah Haley is, Chris Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent's Report: Supt. Joan Paustian distributed a report of secondary students as requested by Bob Bruttomesso. Supt. Paustian also shared information she sent to Mr. Bruttomesso with the Board regarding the handling of inappropriate behavior by students; including harassment and bullying. Supt. Paustian distributed copies of the Education Finance Working Group's Final Report to Speaker of the House, Shap Smith. The Supt. needs to change her goals; she will bring this up at the next SU meeting. The required "School Report Cards" for the state will be compiled in an SU-wide "Report Card" to maintain student confidentiality for the small schools.

Principal's Report: Principal Rick Beal shared that the first Winter Sports day was very successful. The students had a great time and staff used the time to review the standards-based report cards and how they relate to Proficiency Based Learning (PBL). He sent the board the list of 10 overarching principles of PBL. Our computer network is working well so we should be in good shape when the students take the SBACs this spring (online computer-based assessments). Wall padding has been installed in the MPR to improve student safety (funded by VSBIT grant funds). Mr. Smid has located another company that sells platform lifts to address accessibility to the upper floor; information will be gathered. Grades 4-6 went to the Weston Theatre to see an operatic performance of "The Secret Garden." Local farmers were here in December to visit the classrooms and have lunch with the students as part of our Farm to School Grant. We had a very successful Winter Concert. The parents greatly enjoyed it and the students did a wonderful job. Mr. Smid asked how K/1

class instruction is working. Refinements to the K/1 pairing are being made; it is challenging to implement the reading and math programs; with such a wide range of student development.

Business Manager's Report: Financial Statements: Louis Milazzo was not in attendance; he sent the third draft of the budget for '15-'16.

Christopher Smid moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Clarence Haynes seconded; motion carried 4-0.

4. Approve Warrants:

- Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014
- Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14
- Warrant # 203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014, Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14, and Warrant #203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15, Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

5. Mr. Harry Frank from the Vermont School Boards Association will be present for a discussion regarding the Path Ahead. Mr. Frank from the VSBA is here to assist the Board and discuss options to help control costs while providing a quality education in the face of changing expectations and financial pressures. He would like to start a conversation about educational aspirations and financial concerns. ADM (Average Daily Membership for students) has gone up for Middletown Springs over the past decade. We are fairly consistent with our student numbers; we have a high poverty level and significant student needs. We have multi-grade classrooms to save money, but some of the new curriculum requires instruction on each individual grade level. We have had numerous years in which our budget has failed to pass; some people feel that education is just too expensive and although the elementary school budget has been basically level-funded, middle/high school tuition and special education costs continue to rise—these are two costs the Board cannot control. We have a

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highly educated and experienced staff; which is a positive attribute but does result in higher salaries.



Our small school offers some great things; we have strong technology with 1:1 computing, we offer 20 weekly hours of Pre-K for both three and four year olds, we utilize a .20 teacher so that grade levels can be taught reading and math separately. Mr. Beal provides enrichment to students as a .80 Principal/.20 Teacher. He has worked with students on such diverse as building musical instruments, making cheese, working with electricity and engineering principles. MSES is one of the few schools in the state who has not been on an improvement plan prior to this year. We are participating in the beginning phase of implementation of PBL (Performance Based Learning).

Because we don't provide bus transportation, staff has the opportunity to see parents and grandparents in person at pick-up and dismissal time. We provide an active afterschool program with homework assistance, Odyssey of the Mind, gardening/nature clubs, and sports programs such as soccer and basketball. We see the school as the heart of our community. One current idea for controlling (and potentially reducing) costs is potentially joining with another school to divide up grade levels to increase class sizes; such as having a Pre-K to Grade 2 school and/or a Grade 3-6 or 3-8 school. We continue to collaborate with Tinmouth School for winter sports and basketball. We share itinerants such as PE, Art, and Music with Tinmouth; we share our Counselor and School Nurse with Wells.

Being a small school, our students are not exposed to as many other children as we would like; to help them learn to work with others and to prepare them for the higher enrollments in middle and high school. We'd like to add foreign language instruction but we don't have the financial latitude to do this. We try to utilize grant funds whenever possible for school programs

and for building maintenance/improvements. For example, we painted the building in its original colors instead of white to qualify for historic building grant funds. We wanted to update/add a drip edge to our roof, but agreed not to do so to obtain a grant for the recently installed slate roof.

Mr. Frank shared that resources are available to support work in investigating restructuring, collaborating, and/or consolidation. Financial incentives are being given to schools by the state as long as there are two entities at the table discussing consolidation/collaboration/restructuring. We need to talk to our neighbor schools about combining to increase our student numbers/class sizes. We will need to begin gathering data to build a preliminary proposal. Mr. Frank states that schools and districts who chart their own course seem to do well; rather than waiting for a mandated reassignment. If initiative is taken, there are supports and structure in place to help. Mr. Frank will draft a timeline proposing a few scenarios; then follow up with the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Frank for his assistance. Mr. Frank left the meeting at this point.

6. General Public Comments: None

7. Old Business:

a. Budget FY16: Supt. Paustian presented the third draft of the budget. The Board reviewed and discussed it. Supt. Paustian informed the Board that last year's deficit is required to be listed as an expense. Next year's budget is \$2,380,731 (with the amount of \$2,104,283 to be raised by taxes). This represents a 3.97% increase from last year.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the 2015-2016 budget of \$2,380,731, Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

b. Approve Warning and Authorize Signature: There are some issues we need to check on: voting location, the length of the Treasurer and Clerk's terms (should be three years; not one) before the warning is finalized. When finalized, Board members will come to the school to sign the Warning.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the Warning with the stipulation that we determine the place of voting, check the terms of the Clerk & Treasurer, as well as the status of any potential added articles (dependent upon legal advice), and to authorize signature of the Warrant by the Board, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried.

c. Planning for Town Meeting: The Board discussed the upcoming Town Meeting to be held on March 2; with voting on March 3. A budget information meeting for community members will be held on February 10 at 7:00PM at MSES. Various ways of getting the meeting date/time out to the public were discussed.

continued on page 8...

Keep Warm 'til Spring!

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d. Odyssey of the Mind: Odyssey of the Mind Coaching contracts for Rick Beal, Bob Bruttomesso, and Julia Kreilkamp will be discussed under #10 Personnel (Action).

e. Approve and sign MOA #2: Signing of MOA is tabled by consensus until the next SU meeting on January 26, 2015.

f. Update – Henderson Scholarship: Mr. Haynes reports that the Trustees of Public Monies are still determining the availability of funds.

8. New Business:

- a. The School Board reviewed a petition addressed to the Select Board.
- b. Discussion of response to posts on Front Porch Forum.

9. Policies:

- a. G-1 Curriculum Development & Coordination (revised – for input)
- b. G-1A Curriculum Coordinating Council (to be rescinded)
- c. G-1B Curriculum Management & Adoption (to be rescinded)
- d. D-2 Professional Development (new/revised); D-2R procedure to be rescinded
- e. D-205 Nursing Mothers in the Workplace (new for input)
- f. C-2 Board Meetings (revised – for input)

The Board reviewed and discussed the above policies. The Board has no input at this time.

10. Action on Personnel Contract: Contracts are proposed for Odyssey of the Mind Coaches: Rick Beal, Bob Bruttomesso, and Julia Kreilkamp and After-School Counselor, Regina Murphy. We have MAC grant funds available to extend additional services to students in need for the counselor contract.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the hiring of the three OTM coaches: Rick Beal, Bob Bruttomesso, and Julia Kreilkamp, Chris Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Chris Smid moved to approve the hiring of Regina Murphy as After-School Counselor, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 3-0. Clarence Haynes abstained.

11. Set Next Board Meeting (Regular) & Agenda Building: (Anticipated February 23, 2015 6PM at PHS – Carousel Meeting)

By consensus, it was decided to postpone the Carousel Meeting until April. The next MSD Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 6:00PM at MSES.

12. Executive Session 1 VSA § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) if warranted:
None

13. Other Lawful Business

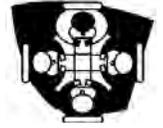
- a. Clarence Haynes informed the Board that a handbook on student representation at VSBA is available online.

14. Adjournment: Meredith Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28PM, Christopher Smid seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso

Select Board Minutes

December 18, 2014 Special Meeting Approved



CALL TO ORDER: 6:05pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

PUBLIC PRESENT: Patty Kenyon, Kevin Eaton.

Budget: The Selectboard conducted its first work session on 2015-16 budget. We will post a ballot initiative to expend up to \$10,000 to contract with the Sheriff's Department for external law enforcement.

Town Report: Patty Kenyon reported that Quickprint recommends us going up to 8.5 x 11 Town Report format for ease of layout and printing. This will probably result in fewer pages, but similar mailing costs. C. Haynes moved to go to larger book, H. Childress 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, C. Haynes, T. Redfield; Nays—M. Lamson, S. Moyer; motion carried.] With regards to the cover S. Moyer moved that we return to the tradition of featuring the current holder of the gold-headed cane, T. Redfield 2nd. [Ayes—C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nay—H. Childress; motion carried.] Town meeting is Monday March 2, and the report must be mailed at least 10 days in advance. Letters have gone out to organizations requesting their material for inclusion, with a deadline of January 10th.

Minutes: December 4th special meeting—T. Redfield moved to approve as presented, M. Lamson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.] November 20th special meeting—Surveyor in question is Ray Page, not George Stannard. T. Redfield moves to approve with amendment, M. Lamson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.]

Public Comments: Kevin Eaton raised the issue of phone service loss during power outage. How can the Town attempt to remedy this difficulty, especially the 911/emergency services issue? The VTEL fiber-optic project has included Danby, Wallingford, Tinmouth, Mt. Holly, Middletown; we don't know whether the other communities faced similar telephone difficulties. H. Childress will investigate whether VLCT has suggestions or reports of other towns with similar concerns. M. Lamson will investigate whether SBC has any progress to report on activating the cell tower.

continued on page 9...

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continued from page 8...

Road Commissioner: Bill Reed reported that the engine has failed on the red plow truck. Earle's options include new engine (\$19,000, 2yr warranty), rebuild engine (\$15,500, 1yr warranty), or rebuild lower half (\$8,500, 1 yr warranty on parts only). Other repairs required for inspection still remain to be done. New truck prices are roughly \$180,000 for a 7600 series [tandem axle] and \$150,000 for a 7400 series [single axle]. Bill will continue to investigate options for replacement; M. Lamson will investigate other repair options and salvage value for the existing red truck.

C. Haynes moved to not repair red truck H. Childress 2nd. Mike moved to amend motion to not repair red truck at this time until we have explored financial implications; T. Redfield 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nay—Carl opposed; motion to amend carried.] Vote on amended motion: Ayes—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nay—Carl opposed; motion to amend carried.]

The Selectboard will explore strategies for truck repair/replacement at a special meeting on December 29.

C. Haynes moved to increase Steve Geno's rate of pay by \$1/hr upon receipt of his CDL upgrade; H. Childress 2nd. [all in favor; motion carried.]

The Selectboard signed the final notice of action to throw up Moyer Acres and Whites Roads, which will be posted over the weekend. The Townspeople have 30 days to appeal the Board's decision.

Correspondence: H. Childress will investigate job descriptions for town administrators in similar towns. We received a service request form from Godfrey family on Buxton Avenue regarding plowing damage to their lawn; T. Redfield will visit to examine.

Board Orders: T. Redfield moved to sign board orders as presented; C. Haynes 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.]

Town Lands: Ray Page is willing to do survey of town lot in January or February 2015. Sarah Haley has been approached by another party with interest in West Street property. Invite Sarah Haley to meeting on 1/8.

Adjourn: M. Lamson moved to adjourn, C. Haynes 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.] Meeting adjourned 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk



Select Board Minutes

December 29, 2014 Special Meeting Approved

CALL TO ORDER: 6:12 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

Budget: The Selectboard conducted its second work session on 2015-16 budget. H. Childress moved that the town combine Metal Collection and Large Waste Collection days into a single event, and hold that event on the first Saturdays of May and October; T. Redfield 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.]

Town Truck: M. Lamson has spoken with two repair firms (Central VT Trucking Repair and Earle's) regarding the engine problem with the red plow truck. Both said this particular engine problem is fairly common; Mike recommended that we consider the partial rebuild, and will get a quote from Central VT to compare against the \$8,500 estimate from Earle's. C. Haynes has talked with a truck dealer as well in continuing to investigate a replacement truck.

The Board will conduct investigation, along with the Road Commissioner, to make a decision by the end of the winter regarding possible vehicle replacement, so that a purchase (if any) can be made in spring for preparation for late summer/early fall delivery.

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

Next meeting: 6 pm on January 8th to work on budget, followed by regular meeting at 7 pm.

Adjourn: T. Redfield moved to adjourn, H. Childress 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.] Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk

Select Board Minutes

January 8, 2015 Special and Regular Meeting Approved

CALL TO ORDER, SPECIAL MEETING: 6:10 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jenny Talke Munyak

BUDGET: The Selectboard conducted its third work session on the 2015-16 budget, focusing on the highway budget.

CALL TO ORDER, REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

continued on page 10...



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continued from page 9...

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sally Achey, Matt Crossman, Lois Dansereau, Pat Hemenway, Kristal Haynes Hier, David Munyak, Jenny Talke Munyak, Bill Reed

MINUTES: T. Redfield moved to accept the minutes for 12/18 as presented; S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. T.Redfield moved to approve the minutes for 12/29 as presented, M. Lamson 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield; Abstain—S. Moyer; motion carried].

PUBLIC COMMENT: Listers: Sally Achey and Pat Hemenway presented the State’s analysis of listings’ accuracy. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) was 17.79%, up very slightly from 17% last year. The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was 102.7, again up slightly from 101 last year. Both of these remain below the levels that would require the Town to do a townwide reappraisal. The Town has roughly \$46,000 in the reappraisal fund, added to each year, so if a reappraisal becomes necessary in the future, the fund would be roughly equal to the task. The Listers also asked for an increased computing budget for 2015-16 for replacement of both hardware and software.

Library: Kristal Haynes Hier and Lois Dansereau presented a 2015-16 Town Library budget of \$22,600, and a request for a Town contribution of \$17,150, up from \$16,300 in 2014-15.

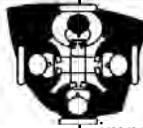
Fire Association: Terry Redfield reported that the Volunteer Fire Association will be placing a request for \$80,000 onto the Town Meeting ballot. This represents level funding from last year, along with the addition of the replacement of four sets of turnout gear.

Town Lands/Parker Site: David Munyak reported that the PCB and basement cleanup are complete, and all invoices received. He is seeking an additional \$10,945 from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development to cover final costs.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has provided a Notice to Land Records indicating the record of work conducted, studies completed, and confirmation that conditions do not represent significant risk to human health or the environment. The DEC must be notified prior to any future excavation on the site.

The Building Committee continues its outreach and communications, with a booth at the December Holiday Craft Fair and a planned food sale at the 2015 Town Meeting.

The Building Committee unanimously voted to request that the following article be placed on the 2015 Town Meeting Ballot:



Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in the Reserve Fund for Town Municipal Facilities to be used for design, construction, improvement, or relocation of town facilities including the Town Office?

H. Childress moved to place this item as presented onto the March 2015 Town Meeting Ballot; M. Lamson 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield; Nays—S. Moyer; motion carried].

Town Lands/Other: Carl Haynes reported having had a conversation with realtor Sarah Haley about the possible sale of the West Street property. A discussion ensued about the possible sale of other Town properties, as well as the potential additions to Town properties subsequent to the January 2014 tax auction. The Board will invite Sarah Haley to a future meeting to continue discussions.

TOWN OFFICERS: Treasurer Jenny Talke Munyak submitted unofficial end-of-December (half-year) reports. Shirley Moyer resigned from her role as a trustee of the Louis Fund and other public monies as of 1/8/2015; her seat will be posted for election at town meeting, along with the other vacant seat.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Bill Reed discussed the road conditions caused by the highly variable weather conditions over the past few weeks. Some mudding/rutting has not been repaired as yet, since the mud froze before all roads could be trimmed. Two culverts had separated, and temporary repairs have been made, awaiting warmer weather for permanent repairs. Bill proposed prioritizing the central stretch of Spruce Knob Road for significant rebuild in 2015.

Bill proposed that the Town purchase an additional 500 cubic yards of road sand at the next thaw, to ensure adequate winter supply. He will investigate prices for the 1/12 special meeting.

The 2015-16 highway budget will require the Board to make decisions about vehicle repair and replacement. Bill and Laura Castle are getting information from surrounding communities regarding their plow-truck replacement plans. M. Lamson moved that we authorize Central Vermont Truck Repair to complete the engine overhaul and repairs required for inspection of the 7400 based on their quoted price of \$10,016.13; H. Childress 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nays—C. Haynes; motion carried].

H. Childress will draft a letter from the Selectboard to the Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding icing conditions on 133/140 (East Street, near Tinmouth turn) for the Board’s consideration at the 1/12 meeting.

Matt Crossman was present to discuss his application for mechanic work.

continued on page 11...

2015 RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, March 7, 2015
Middletown Springs Fire Hall
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

\$8 per animal

Dr. Scott MacLachlan
Poultney Veterinary Services

Town Clerk will be available to
issue licenses before the April 1 deadline.



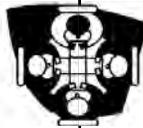
Maple Festival

Sunday, March 15th, 1 to 4 pm
On the Green



The Middletown Springs Historical Society
is the community center for the
understanding and appreciation of the
evolving history of Middletown Springs.
— MSHS Vision Statement

continued from page 10...



Select Board Minutes January 15, 2015 Special Meeting Approved

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sarah Haley, Bill Reed

CORRESPONDENCE: The Board reviewed the correspondence summary; no action was needed.

SOLID WASTE: Mike has had a conversation with Pam Clapp (SWAC) regarding the Transfer Station's handling of leaf and yard waste, which the town will be responsible for by July 1 2015. We can use as small as a 30-gallon tote at the Transfer Station, but ultimate disposal remains unclear. We also have changes needed to our handling of electronic waste.

BOARD ORDERS: H. Childress moved to accept board orders as presented, T. Redfield 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

SPECIAL MEETING: The Selectboard will hold a special meeting on Monday 1/12 at 6pm to discuss budget completion, the purchase of additional sand, the sale of town lands, the letter to VT Agency of Transportation regarding 133/140, and the recruitment of new trustees of public monies.

ADJOURN: H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk

Select Board Minutes January 12, 2015 Special Meeting Approved

CALL TO ORDER: 6:08 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, T. Redfield

PUBLIC PRESENT: Bill Reed

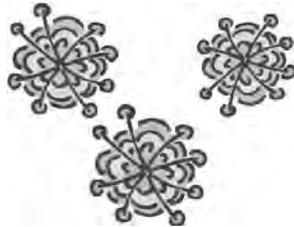
Budget: The Selectboard conducted its third work session on the 2015-16 budget, focusing on the highway budget.

Sand: Bill has two prices for additional sand; he will bring further quotes for consideration at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: The Board set a special meeting for Thursday January 15 at 6:00 pm for continued budget work, consideration of sand purchase, real estate discussions, and a possible letter to VT Agency of Transportation regarding icing conditions on VT133/140.

Adjourn: HC moved to adjourn, TR 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk



Public Lands: The Board met with Sarah Haley to discuss sale of Town property. Listing properties through a realtor allows access to broad networks that other brokers and buyers can see. She indicated that the West Street property would require substantial investigation into its condition before a list price could be set. She will have a look at the house and property, and meet with the Board at the February 12 regular meeting. The Board will have a voluntary investigative meeting at the West Street site at 1pm on Monday January 19th, for informational purposes only; no decisions will be made.

With regards to the Oakdale and Coy Hill properties, significant research needs to be made into title, deed restrictions and land condition before any decision can be made about potential sale.

Sand Purchase: Bill Reed has prices from Carerra, McCullen, Markowski. He awaits one further price from Holcomb; the Board will consider purchase at Thursday 1/22 regular meeting.

Budget: The Selectboard conducted its fourth work session on the 2015-16 budget, focusing on revenue projections.

State Highway 133/140: T. Redfield moved that the Selectboard sign and send a letter of concern relative to icing on 133/140; M. Lamson 2nd. [Ayes—H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield; Nays—C. Haynes; motion carried].

Next Meeting: The Board set a special meeting for Wednesday January 21st at 6:00 pm to finalize the Warning for 2015 Town Meeting.

Adjourn: M. Lamson moved to adjourn, T. Redfield 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk



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Select Board Minutes

January 21, 2015 Special Meeting Approved

CALL TO ORDER: 6:14 pm

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Haynes, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield

Budget: The Selectboard conducted its fifth work session on the 2015-16 budget, focusing on non-profit organization requests. A draft of the Warning for 2015 Town Meeting was created and reviewed, to be acted upon at the regular 1/22 meeting.

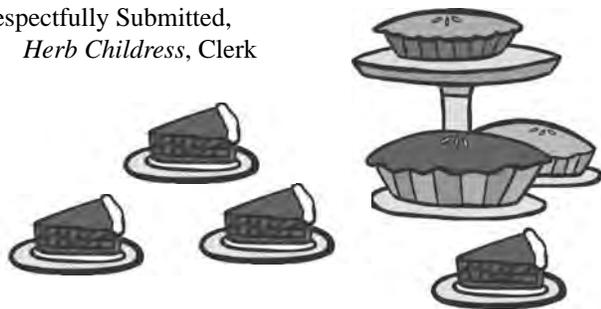
M. Lamson moved that the following ballot item be included in the 2015 Town Meeting Ballot: The Selectboard has discussed the possibility of creating new walking and biking routes in the town. Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs support the Selectboard in conducting a feasibility study for the creation of a hardpack walking-running-biking trail along areas of the Poultney River? T. Redfield 2nd. [All in favor, motion carried]

C. Haynes moved that the following ballot item be included in the 2015 Town Meeting Ballot: Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs appropriate up to \$20,000 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to conduct an external financial audit of Town and Highway finances pertaining to the 2014-2015 fiscal year? M. Lamson 2nd. [All in favor, motion carried]

H. Childress moved that the following ballot item be included in the 2015 Town Meeting Ballot: Shall the voters of the town of Middletown Springs vote to allow the use of vote tabulator machines? T. Redfield 2nd. [All in favor, motion carried]

Adjourn: T. Redfield moved to adjourn, S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Herb Childress, Clerk



Pie for Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, 2015

8am-11am

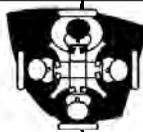
at the Historical Society



\$7 for adults; \$4 for children 5-12; under 5 FREE

All Proceeds Benefit

Middletown Springs Public Library



Planning Commission Minutes

December 1, 2014

Call to order: 4:05PM

Approval of agenda: Agenda approved.

1) Approval of November Minutes: Tom moved and John gave a second to approve the November minutes. All in favor.

2) Correspondence: A notice from Susan Schreiber from RRPC informing us of their shared municipal services that are offered to regional towns and cities. Also a notice from State of Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division notifying us they had received the application and fee from the MS Selectboard for the well at the Parker site.

3) Old Business: a. Municipal Planning Grant: Tom reviewed all the documents that were received from the state on using the awarded Municipal Planning Grant. A discussion followed on the steps to be completed. The first steps will take place this Thursday at the SB meeting where Herb Childress will bring a written document spelling out the grant agreement between the State of VT and MS. The town must sign that they know the terms for accepting the grant, and that they agree to the terms. Following that the clerk and the treasurer must be advised on the grant terms and a written requisition for the funds must be completed and mailed. The next step is for the steering committee to assemble and begin their work of selecting a consultant. Tom will contact the three members and establish a first meeting of the steering committee.

b. Town Report: We reviewed John's draft of our 2014 report to the Annual Report. Maureen moved and Tom gave a second that we accept the draft as written. The motion passed.

4) RRPC Report: Tom reported on the RRPC discussion with the VT Transportation Agency, and some proposed solar projects.

5) Building Committee Report: No final report on the soil contamination was in as of today. An idea for a new building design was presented by Ron Masleh, and on his second visit he presented drawings, floor plans and elevations. The committee was most appreciative of Ron's effort to get professional drawings made of his ideas. The BC will have a booth at the Holiday Fair at the school on Dec. 7th.

6) New Business: None.

7) Next Meeting date: January 5, 2015

8) Adjournment: 5:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCormack, Secretary



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School News

Middletown Springs Elementary School's fourth graders have been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subject areas. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from state assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country with Vermont being near the top in comparison to other state scores. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. The assessment will be administered on February 10 with our students selected to be assessed in mathematics and reading.

The replacement for the fall NECAP test, which determined annual yearly progress, will be given this spring. The SBAC assessment will have a window for being administered from the mid-March to beginning of June. Since the assessment is based on end of year standards, it will be planned for some time towards the end of May. All students in 3rd through 6th grade will be taking the assessment. Both reading and math will have three components: an online computer assessment, a group classroom activity, and applied task; using the information learned during the activity. MSES students were able to pilot the test two years ago and be part of a study group last spring. The extra exposure to the SBAC will be beneficial as they take the test "for real".

MSES and the supervisory union are participating in a three-year pilot project by the VT Department of Education to implement Proficiency Based Learning (PBL). Proficiency-based learning refers to systems of instruction, assessments, grading and academic reporting that are based on students demonstrating mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn before they progress to the next lesson, get promoted to the next grade level, or receive a diploma. Our participation in the pilot project could not have come at a better time as the school moves to standards based reporting of student progress.

The basketball season is well underway this year. We have been very fortunate to have two teams this year, 3rd and 4th, and 5th and 6th and they have played very well. What I have noticed most are the improvement in ball handling skills and most importantly, working together as a team. I would like to recognize the coaches, Cheri Tournet, Paul Morgan, John and Tracy Weatherhogg, for all their efforts in working with the players.



Library News

Blind Date with a Book

Opening up a new book is like going on a blind date. From now until March 14 stop by the library and select your "date" from the display of wrapped books, check it out sight unseen and don't unwrap it until you get home! Give your "date" a chance by reading at least 50 pages. If there is chemistry read it all! If not, there will be no hard feelings; it is just a book after all. Return it and try again!

Each book comes with a rating card on which to score your date. Everything from "I love this book so much, I want to marry it!" to "DNF = Did Not Finish: Escape-the-restaurant-through-the-bathroom-window level of awful." Every returned score card will be entered in a raffle for a large red heart box of chocolates.

Books available for readers of all ages: adults, teens, kids, and tots.

Take A Chance ... who knows, you might just fall in love?

Cure for Wintertime Blues...PIE FOR BREAKFAST

The Library Trustees are standing by to cure your winter blues with their annual Pie For Breakfast fundraiser. On Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 8am-11am, they will be serving up All You Can Eat PIE For Breakfast with tea, coffee, or juice. The slices are cut thin so it is easy to try many different varieties. Pies are both sweet (such as pumpkin, apple, berry, chocolate...) and savory (such as quiche, spinach, ham...). Yum!

This delicious annual event is so popular that it outgrew the library building several years ago. Its new location is the Middletown Springs Historical Society on the town green. Same scrumptious pies, hot coffee, and fine conversation just with more elbow room.



\$7 for adults; \$4 for children 5-12, under 5 FREE. All proceeds benefit the Middletown Springs Public Library.

For more information contact the library at 802-235-2435.

**Remember to visit:
The Town's Official Website
www.middletownsprings.vt.gov
All the Latest News and In-Depth
Information At Your Fingertips**

Middletown Springs Building Committee

The regular meeting times for the Building Committee are 7 pm at the Town Office on the **first Wednesday** and the **third Thursday** of each month.

All meetings are open to the public.





New Season for Church and Pastor

The Middletown Springs Community Church is entering into a season of transition. Our Pastor Jared Wilson has taken a position at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City Missouri, and his last Sunday in our pulpit will be February 15th. There are very mixed feelings about having to say goodbye to him and his family.

Following the retirement of Pastor Roland Mitcheson, Pastor Jared came to shepherd our church in August 2009. His strong gifts of preaching and teaching have challenged and encouraged many in their faith walk and growth. Jared's new position in Missouri will be Director of Content Strategy (writer in residence) and Managing Editor of the Seminary's new website entitled "For the Church".

Choosing a new pastor is an important responsibility, and a committee of church leaders has begun the search process. During the time it takes to find just the right man, our church Elders and Deacons will oversee the life of the church, ensuring that each Sunday service includes someone to lead the worship, that other activities continue to run smoothly, and that people's needs are met.

As Texas natives, Jared and Becky Wilson have often said that coming to 'little ol' Middletown Springs, Vermont has been an amazing blessing to them and their daughters. Our church feels the very same in return. We will greatly miss each of the Wilsons, and trust this new calling in Missouri to be part of God's plan.

Middletown Springs Community Church Sunday Service is 10 am - all are welcome. Office 235-2386; email mschurch@gmail.com; website www.middletown-church.org

RSVP Bone Builders
at the Community Church

Monday & Wednesday at 8:30am



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(888) 773-3551
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Fountain of Youth

February's date for seniors from Middletown and Ira to have lunch at the Young At Heart Senior Center in Poultney is February 25. Chicken & Biscuits, Cranberry Sauce, Potato, Vegetable of the Day and Cake will be served at 12 noon. Doors open at 11 am with homemade soup and coffee or tea available from 11:15 am.

Meals are cooked on the premises and served family style for a donation of \$3.25 for seniors 60 years and older. All others pay \$4.25. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Center at 287-9200.

VOTE

TUESDAY
MARCH 3, 2015
AT THE
FIREHOUSE
POLLS OPEN FROM
7AM TO 7PM



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Building Committee Report

Written for inclusion in the Town Report

The Middletown Springs Building Committee (BC), a subcommittee of the Selectboard, had another busy year in 2014.

On February 8, 2014, the BC held its second Informational Meeting at the school where we presented information about the town office project and solicited feedback from the community.

On Town Meeting Day, the BC held its Second Annual Town Meeting Food Sale in the Middletown Springs Historical Society dining room. This successful event raised \$645 for the project and gave townspeople the opportunity to peruse the extensive information on display while enjoying some delicious homemade food donated by many gracious volunteer chefs and bakers.

Committee members met with a representative from the VTrans Utilities and Permits Unit about site design and parking, and a representative from Green Mountain Power about possible relocation of power lines.

The committee worked with project architects Michael Beattie and Mark McManus to prepare a set of preliminary designs for the new building. These designs address the needs of the town officers, the library board and the desires of the community as expressed in the 2013 Visioning Session and other means of public input.

A subcommittee began seeking sources of funding to allow a modern, functional and aesthetically pleasing building to be built while minimizing the impact on the town tax rate.

In its ongoing effort to keep people informed and engaged, the committee began publishing a series of Q&A articles on Front Porch Forum and in the Magnet. These articles, entitled "What's Happening on the Corner?" feature Library Chair Kristal Hier and Building Committee Chair David Munyak addressing questions that have been coming in regarding progress on the project. Public reaction to these articles has been very positive and people routinely express appreciation for the committee's transparency and commitment to making information available.

The committee held an 'Open House' event on site on October 4 where the footprint of the proposed building was outlined on the ground and information from the Building Committee and Library Trustees was displayed in various "rooms" within the building footprint. This event drew a large crowd of attendees despite the cold

drizzle. Suggestion boxes were present on site and distributed around town. These boxes remained in place until late in December in the hope that townsfolk would provide ideas and feedback. A number of people took advantage of the opportunity.

On December 7, committee members set up and manned a booth at the Holiday Craft Fair at the Elementary School. Displays included plans, a scale model, information on funding implications and info from the Library Trustees.

As always, minutes of the Building Committee meetings are regularly published in the Magnet and posted on the Town Website.

Work on the Brownfield cleanup continued and in August, a Request for Proposal was prepared and advertised with the goal of hiring an engineering firm to prepare bid documents for the remaining cleanup work and perform project oversight. The scope of work was to include removal of the remaining PCB contamination from the area of the old lift pit and asbestos containing materials from the basement of the "green garage".

On August 28, the contract was awarded to the firm of Ross Environmental Associates, which immediately got busy preparing the necessary documents. The presence of loose asbestos steam pipe insulation complicated the project slightly, but, with the help of a firm licensed to design asbestos abatement plans, the project was soon ready to go to bid

Bids from contractors were received and the contract was awarded to Enpro Services on October 30. Enpro and their asbestos subcontractor, Alderson Inc, began work on November 17, just as the area of New York State where the hazardous waste landfills are located were getting four feet of snow. The weather conditions slowed progress but the site work and backfilling were complete by November 25.

Financial analysis shows that the Brownfield clean-up cost a total of \$293,640. Of that amount, \$281,391 was paid directly by Rutland Regional Planning Commission or by grant monies from Agency of Commerce & Community Development and Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. The remaining amount of \$12,249 or 4.2% of the total, was paid by Middletown Springs tax dollars.

Finally, while this other work was happening, the committee worked with Frank Parent of Long Trail Engineering to prepare a well and septic permit. The permit was filed in late November and is in the process of being reviewed as this report is being written. Once the permit is approved, the well can be drilled.

In 2015, the Building Committee will continue refining the building design, identifying funding sources, and doing any sitework that can be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,
David Munyak, Committee Chairman



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Volunteer Fire Department News - January 2015

The Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department has had a great start to the year! The department responded to four calls within the first couple of weeks of the year, which included power lines down, a chimney fire, and a multiple car crash. The MSVFD has had such a high response from members, they were able to respond with two pieces of apparatus with each call. The MSVFD has welcomed two new members to the department, Firefighters Brendan Reilly and Daniel Austin. Membership is on the rise, and the MSVFD excited to have two more dedicated members.

The MSVFD senior members and junior members participated in a multiple town training session hosted by the Poultney Fire Department on January 10, 2015. It was a great training that involved search and rescue training, which also incorporated air pack training. This training also included forcible entry training. MSVFD members worked with five other departments during the Saturday training. It is also great to train with other departments. Members acquire an understanding of other departments' techniques and communication methods. These trainings simplify emergency situations when members are familiar with working with each other on mutual aid calls. Thank you to Poultney Fire department. It was a great opportunity for all members.

The MSVFD's regular monthly training a HAZ-MAT refresher and infectious control. This is a training in a classroom setting that may not be physical, but it is very important and required to be done annually. With many accidents around our community, HAZ-MAT materials are almost always involved. The members had a great discussion on how to handle these situations and went through the proper steps that may need to

be taken. The steps included approaching scene, locating placards on vehicles and MSDS, calling appropriate resources, setting up safety zones, and area evacuations.

The members of the MSVFD, along with the Middletown Springs Fire Association, will be hosting an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at the firehouse. The meeting will take place at 6:30pm. Please stop in to meet our new members, ask questions, listen to future plans, and enjoy a meal. We hope to see our community there. Thank you for your support.

The Membership of the
Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department

RAVNAH Offers Hospice Volunteer Training



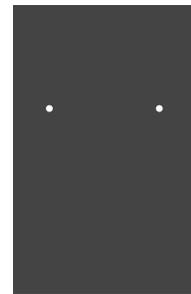
Rutland Area VNA & Hospice (RAVNAH) will offer a free eight-week hospice volunteer training course for individuals who wish to become hospice and palliative care volunteers in the Rutland County, Dorset and Rupert areas.

There will be eight three-hour sessions beginning in late March that will meet two times a week on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The content will cover many aspects of the dying process including spiritual and bereavement issues, patient privacy and confidentiality, cultural competence in different settings with diverse populations, and ways in which a volunteer presence can support both the hospice patient and the family or caregivers. Materials will be provided and there is no charge for the training.

The training sessions will be held at RAVNAH, 7 Albert Cree Drive in Rutland. To enroll in the training or to find out more information, call John Campbell, RAVNAH Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 770-1683 or email jcampbell@ravnah.org.



This was the scene of just some of those who attended the luncheon held at the Middletown Springs Community Church after the standing room only memorial service for Natalie Casco on Saturday January 24. Jim Casco is seen on the left greeting those who had attended the service. Photo by Emmett Francois.



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**News from the
Middletown Springs Fire
Association
January 7, 2015**

Board of Trustees: Justin Hier, President, Chris Smid, Vice President, Art Castle, Treasurer, Kevin Eaton, Secretary, Vicki Arsenault, member, Karen Castle, member, Terry Redfield, member, Sue Miller Norton, member

The Middletown Springs Fire Association held their first meeting of the year on January 7, 2015. The board started off the meeting by saying thank you to Mark McManus and John Arsenault for servicing on the board for many years. Both John and Mark have been very involved and supportive of the board and the fire department for several years.

The Board of Trustees discussed many financial issues that involve operations of the MSVFD. The Board of Trustees agreed with the members of the fire department that 4 new sets of turnout gear need to be replaced in 2015. Each set of turnout gear (one coat and one pair of pants) ranges from \$2200 to \$4500. The board has decided to stay with the brand currently being used by MSVFD which costs roughly \$2800 each. The MSVFDs turnout gear is approaching the expiration dates. When gear reaches the expiration it must be replaced to meet federal guidelines. It is not just federal guidelines that is a factor, it is also the safety of the firefighters. If the board of trustees continues to use expired gear and a firefighter is burned, the Association will have consequences of high fines, and possibly be dropped by the insurance company. The board is concerned about safety and complying with federal guidelines. The board decided to purchase four sets of gear in 2015 and budget for two set of turnout gear over the next couple of years to have less of a financial impact in the future. The board understands that members of the MSVFD fight the element of weather and fire on any given emergency call.

The Board of Trustees also had a discussion on how to save money and plan for the future. The monthly payment on the rescue truck, which was purchased in 2009, is \$1,600 per month. That is an expense of approximately \$18,000 per year. The rescue truck has a payoff balance of \$72,000. This truck payment causes

a financial burden to the Association. The Association is considering selling the rescue truck. The Association has already received an offer of \$100,000 to sell the rescue truck. The Board of Trustees has concluded that this offer is a respectable offer. The Board of Trustees is concerned about being without a rescue vehicle. West Rutland Fire Department is selling their 1995 Rescue/Engine which is being replaced with a brand new apparatus valued at \$500,000. The Middletown Springs Fire Association is in discussion with the West Rutland Fire Department to purchase their 1995 Rescue/Engine for \$50,000. There are many pros to this transaction. The Board of Trustees will not have a debt of \$72,000 which is the payoff balance on our current rescue truck. West Rutland's Rescue/Engine is a rescue truck that carries 1,000 gallons of water. MSVFD's current Rescue Truck does not carry water. Earle's Truck Repair in Rutland has done all the service to the West Rutland truck. The Board of Trustees is interested in purchasing a local truck that has been maintained properly. The purchase of the West Rutland Rescue/Engine would also allow MSVFD to carry a portable pond which currently cannot be done. The Board of Trustees feels that this transaction would have a positive impact on finances. The Board of Trustees would only need to take a very small loan to pay off the West Rutland truck, therefore, relieving financial stresses the association is currently facing.

The Board of Trustees, along with the MSVFD, is hosting an Informational Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place at the firehouse. A light dinner will served. The Board of Trustees and the members of the MSVFD will be available to answer questions, listen to concerns, and discuss the future plans for the Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department. This is also a great opportunity to meet new members of the board and the fire department. We hope you can attend.





**Meub
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&
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Beyond Beagles - The View From Montpelier

Despite all the press coverage of Legislature discussing the "beagle issue" it has taken me longer to write these

words than we spent discussing dogs in the statehouse. I read in the paper that the State Legislature is debating whether to designate the beagle as the official State Dog. But the word "debate" is not quite accurate. It is true that a bill was proposed in the senate to do that. It is also true that it was promptly referred to committee where it is expected to die quietly, pinned to the wall and ignored.

The senator who submitted it did so because his constituents submitted a petition with 200 signatures on it asking him to do so. So he did. This little excursion into triviality has been part of my learning curve in Montpelier. So yes, there is a bill. No, we are not debating it.

What we have been discussing are the very serious issues facing Vermont: the budget, the economy, education funding, where to go with healthcare, a renewable energy portfolio, and Lake Champlain clean-up. Committees are working hard, taking testimony, weighing options, and listening to different perspectives. My committee of Natural Resources and Energy has been working on a Renewable Portfolio Standard, basically an energy roadmap to guide us toward 2050. The roadmap lays out specific thresholds for utilities to meet and designates renewable energy, energy efficiency, and distributed generation practices. It has been a steep learning curve for many of us on the committee.

There are bills presented or in the works on a dizzying variety of topics, some critical like those mentioned above, some small but important, and some just minor. Earlier we passed a bill banning the manufacture and sale of healthcare products containing microbeads - tiny plastic beads that scrub your skin but because they are non-biodegradable they also contaminate wastewater and concentrate in fish, who mistake them for tiny eggs and eat them. That bill now goes to the senate for approval. Lets just hope they don't send us the beagle bill in exchange.



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Mark Hudson, Executive Director off the Vermont Historical Society, presents Jon Mathewson of the Middletown Springs Historical Society, with the Vermont League of Historical Societies and Museums Exhibitions and Programs award for the "Middletown Springs Timeline: 1761-1972" exhibit.

RAVNAH Community Health Clinics

February Foot Care/Blood Pressure Clinics -

The cost of the foot clinic is \$10. For more information please call 775-0568.

Wednesday, 2/25/15, Rutland, Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., 12:30 pm or Thursday, 2/26/15, Fair Haven, Appletree Apartments, 7 Appletree Lane, 9:30 am

Cholesterol Screenings are offered for \$30 every month: Clinics held at the Rutland Office are the 1st Wednesday - call 775-0568 for an appointment. Clinics held at the Dorset Office are the 3rd Wednesday - call 362-1200 for an appointment.

Did you get your Flu Shot? You still can! Our clinics have concluded, but if you wish to get your flu shot from one of our registered nurses, please call Cathleen Paulin to schedule an appointment at 802.770.1536. It is our privilege to serve you!



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17th Annual Courcelle Scholarship

PEGTV, Rutland County's public access television station, is pleased to announce that we have expanded the scope of our annual PEGTV Courcelle Scholarship to include the entire realm of visual and media arts. Two Rutland County high school seniors have the opportunity to win a \$1000 scholarship to pursue post-secondary education in all areas of television, film, radio, internet, computer animation, graphic arts, sound engineering, photo and print journalism.

The 17th annual PEGTV Courcelle Scholarship honors the memory of Joe Courcelle for his pioneering work for public access television in Rutland. Joe Courcelle was an active member of the original board of directors, a dedicated independent producer and an integral part of the establishment of Rutland's PEGTV.

A special selection committee will review the applications and interview potential candidates. Applications have been sent to Rutland County high schools for distribution to interested candidates and are due by May 1, 2015.

Anyone interested in receiving an application may contact their high school guidance office or call Chris McCormack, Channel 20 program coordinator, at PEGTV at (802) 747-0151.

PEGTV is comprised of Channels 15, 20 and 21 and is available to all cable and Vtel subscribers throughout Rutland County. Streaming programming, video on demand services and hyper-local weather forecasts are also available online at www.pegtv.com.

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Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, February 20, 2015 at 8:00

Beginners's Session 8:00 - 8:15



February's contra will feature Peter Johnson calling and local favorite band The Plumb Bobs with Marcos Levy, Mary Barron, Aaron Schneider and Jonathan Czar providing live music. The dance will be held at the Tinmouth Community Center on Friday February 20 from 8 – 11 pm. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come at 8 for a beginner's session. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing and a fun night for all.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of the month. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available to benefit the dance fund. Call 235-2718 or 446-2928 for info or directions or www.Tinmouthvt.org for directions. Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance.

Mark your calendars for our winter/spring series: March 20, April 17, May 15.

Thrive Center Sponsors Yoga Classes & Workshops

Experience the joy of restoring movement to all areas of your body while learning how to unravel the restrictions produced from daily life; with 5 different yoga instructors, on the following Sundays: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and Saturday 3/28*. The classes and workshops are open to those who are new to yoga, as well as, those who are looking to grow an experienced practice.



The time for each session is 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (unless otherwise noted*), and will be held at the Wallingford Elementary School Gymnasium, 126 School Street/Route 140 East, Wallingford. The investment (Fee) is variable, ranging from: \$10.00 per class and \$20.00 per workshop. Pricing subject to change.

*Our Saturday workshop will be a "field trip" held @ Therapydia, 155 Woodstock Avenue, #2, Rutland, VT, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

For further detailed information and to register call 802-446-2499 or email: uthrive@vermontel.net, today!

A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit the: Wallingford Elementary School ~ General Scholarship Fund, as well as, the Girls on the Run.

Men's Community Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 28, at 8 am

Middletown Springs School

*Come join us if you are able
for this informal monthly event*

Calendar
February

Building Committee	Thurs	19	7 pm	Library
Tinmouth Contra	Fri	20	8pm	Community Ctr
Select Board	Thurs	26	7 pm	Town Office
Last Day to Reg to Vote	Wed	25	by 5pm	Town Office
Fire Dept Info Meeting	Tues	24	6:30pm	Firehouse
Fountain of Youth	Wed	25	Noon	Young at Heart
Library Trustees	Wed	25	9 am	Library

March

Last Day for Absentee	Mon	2	by 5pm	Town Office
Town Meeting Info	Mon	2	7:30pm	School
Knitting Circle	Mon	2	7-9pm	Library
Town Meeting Vote	Tues	3	7am - 7pm	Firehouse
BC Food Sale	Tues	3	All Day	MSHS
Building Committee	Wed	4	7pm	Library
First Response	Thurs	5	6:30 pm	Fire House
Historical Society	Thurs	5	7:30 pm	MSHS
Pie for Breakfast	Sat	7	8 - 11am	MSHS
Rabies Clinic	Sat	7	1 - 2 pm	Firehouse
Energy Committee	Mon	9	7:30pm	Town Office
School Board	Thurs	12	6 pm	School
Select Board	Thurs	12	7 pm	Town Office
Taxes Due	Mon	16	1 - 4pm	Town Office

Calendar Events – subject to change.

When in doubt, please check with the organization for details.



Messages to The Magnet:

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Thank You!

The volunteers at *The Magnet* would
like to thank Art & Fran Oken, Linda
Moyer, Chris Smid, MTS Bone Builders,
Fountain of Youth, and Nancy Edmunds for
their recent donations. Additional thanks
to our advertisers and contributors. We
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Town Informational Meeting!
Monday, March 2, 7:30pm
at the School

Town Meeting Vote!
Tuesday, March 3, 7am to 7pm
at the Firehouse

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