

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, February 28, 2019
Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

TOWN OFFICERS: Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Sarah Grimm, Auditor; Randy Kniffen, Lister; Bill Reed, Road Foreman

PUBLIC AND GUESTS:

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

How can such a short month have felt so long?

Minutes: T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the February 14 regular meeting with one correction; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*Childress, Kenyon, Redfield in favor, Fenton abstained; motion carried*].

Town Officers: Randy Kniffen appeared before the Board to discuss the work of the listers, including the good outcomes of the CLA and COD in recent years. He advocated that the Board use a bit of the reassessment fund to compensate the Listers at a higher rate, given that the work they do has resulted in many years without overall reassessment. Once the audit has been completed, we will have a firmer determination about the acceptable uses of that and other restricted funds.

Town Clerk Laura Castle reported that we've received a liquor license application from Grant's Village Store. We will convene a Board of Liquor Control meeting later this evening.

Laura also requested a method of recording Town Meeting. Herb will work with Moderator Kimberly Bushnell to develop a recording method in advance of this Monday's informational meeting.

The election tabulator has been tested, and the poll workers' schedule is set. The annual informational meeting will be held at the School on Monday March 4, 6:30 pm; voting at the Historical Society on Tuesday March 5, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Fred Duplessis, the lead accountant on our Town's audit, will be in town for a work session on Friday, March 8. This will involve mostly work with the Treasurer and the Selectboard Clerk, but may also include other Town officers and employees.

Highway: Earle's will assess and estimate repair costs for the 7600 early next week. There was also a bed chain mechanism failure in its sander unit, and Bill Lyle will examine possible repairs.

Bill is attempting to have a service charge removed from the most recent LifTech bill, since the backhoe is under warranty. P. Kenyon will follow up with LifTech.

Bob is out for another four weeks, at minimum.

Town Lands: The building committee had an informal conversation last week in absence of a quorum, in preparation for discussions at Town Meeting. The fire company has still not provided further detail to the Selectboard or to the Fire Association president on their proposed building. We discussed the formation of a second building committee related to industrial uses—fire, garage, salt, transfer station—and what the membership of that committee might look like. The committee could have representation from:

1. Selectboard
2. Church
3. Historical Society
4. Fire Association
5. Highway Department
6. Transfer Station
7. Planning Commission
8. First Response
9. town at-large

The Selectboard will hold a special meeting at 6pm on Thursday March 7 for the purposes of reorganization for the 2019-20 board year, and to conduct town lands site visits. We will also deliberate further on the nature and makeup of the industrial use committee. We are in possession of the Crane Engineering facilities master plan from 2006, and will use that as a starting point for discussions and design.

H. Childress had an informal conversation with Scott Robertson of VT Agency of Transportation; although the Agency has not yet sent letters, Mr. Robertson confirmed that Middletown Springs has been funded for the survey and hydrological modeling of the West Street property. Once the town receives official notice of that award, we will put together an RFP for survey and engineering services, in an attempt to reclaim part of that site for Town functions..

Solid Waste: By statute, the Town is not supposed to subsidize waste disposal; fees for collection must equal or exceed the Town's expenses. T. Redfield had a conversation with Pam Clapp of SWAC, in which they clarified which income and which expenses are used to calculate that balance. As a result, they determined that the Town is in compliance with "pay-as-you-throw" requirements.

Correspondence:

- VT ANR request to complete Municipal Roads General Permit Planning Report
- VLCT Community and Economic Development event Wed 3/27, in Burke
- Notice of bankruptcy from Ditech Holding Company
- Scam mailing from DOTService.com

- Request for fleet permit from Markowski Excavating, with \$10 permit fee. H Childress moved to approve the fleet permit from Markowski Excavating; T. Redfield 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].
- Commendation letter of highway department for the excellent job they've done this winter to keep the roads clear and safe.
- Phone call questioning why we don't have a rabies clinic schedule for the coming year. We don't currently have a veterinarian who is on call to us. T. Redfield will contact a veterinarian from Fair Haven who has offered his services, and will work to schedule a spring 2019 rabies clinic.
- Ads

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

Board of Liquor Control: Terry Redfield moved to convene a Board of Liquor Control meeting, H. Childress 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The Board of Liquor Control convened at 9:19 pm to consider the approval of the renewal of the 2nd class liquor license for Grant's Village Store, Inc. effective May 1 2019 through April 30 2020. T. Redfield moved to approve the renewal, C. Haynes 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. H. Childress moved to adjourn the Board of Liquor Control; C. Haynes 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Regular Selectboard session rejoined at 9:23 pm.

Executive Session: H. Childress moved that we enter executive session; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session begun 9:29 pm.

C. Haynes moved to close executive session, H. Childress 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The board decided in executive session to issue a disciplinary action regarding Bill Reed, with a note placed in his personnel file.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk