

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, January 10, 2019**  
**Regular Meeting Approved Minutes**

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

**TOWN OFFICERS:** Sarah Grimm, Auditor; Bill Reed, Road Foreman

**PUBLIC AND GUESTS:** George Gonda, volunteer fire association

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:10 p.m. for budget preparation, 7:03 for regular business

**Budget Preparation:** we spent the hour focused mostly on the Highway budget.

**Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the December 27 meeting and January 3 meetings; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Guests:** George Gonda came to participate in tonight's meeting, as a member of the volunteer fire association. We discussed the bond process if the voters approve funding for capital projects, and requested the fire department to provide detailed planning and justification for the proposed new building as soon as possible.

**Town Officers:** Auditor Sarah Grimm led us through two items in the audit contract to pay specific attention to. We will review this in the Legal section of tonight's meeting.

**Highway:** We should be receiving a reimbursement from VTRANS for \$129,687.46 for the Norton Road project. The project was completed substantially below the roughly \$157,000 total estimate. Bill will be meeting with the auditors to establish project-based recordkeeping; for instance, to apply the in-kind payments for town equipment usage to the town equipment reserve fund, since it's intended to compensate the town for equipment wear.

The Better Back Roads program is also reimbursing \$24,637.50 for the Spruce Knob culvert repair. They had had a \$24,000 funding limit for this project, but because we showed a slightly higher in-kind contributions, they've agreed to reimburse us for the higher cost.

Bill has asked Chet McLellan to produce more sand for us at his earliest opportunity.

The Freightliner is back from its brake repair; the 7600 and the one-ton are scheduled for service or repair as soon as we have a week available.

C. Fenton has signed the 2019 highway mileage certification.

We are still waiting on final estimates for VT140 paving from Pike Paving.

**Town Lands:** the Building Committee is establishing its report to include in the overall Town Report. The more thorough report from the “listening tour” will be posted to the Town website within the next week for public review.

**Solid Waste:** Hubbard has been at work replacing the computerized power control for the recycle compactor. It has not yet been replaced, and we ask community members to hold their recycling until Monday 1/14 if possible.

**Correspondence:**

- VTRANS 2019 certificate of highway mileage
- Letter from Phil Scott re: climate resolution
- request from RRPC for \$975 for 2019 dues
- ads

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

**Legal:** The Board carefully reviewed the letter of engagement provided by Sullivan, Powers & Co., the accounting firm selected to conduct the audit of the Town’s financial practices and our 2018 financial statements. The Board will determine the appropriate organizational structure to manage the Town’s responsibilities during the audit.

**Other Business:** The Board of Tax Abatement will meet on Tuesday 1/15 at 6:00 pm to discuss three abatement requests; a special meeting of the Selectboard will occur afterward, at 7:30pm, to finalize the budget and to set the workplan for the pending audit.

We’ve received a request to be specific about the process of awarding the gold-headed cane for the oldest resident of the Town. Because of legal ambiguities in the definition of “resident,” no change is being made in the current determination of who qualifies for this award.

**Adjourn:** T. Redfield moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk