

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, January 24, 2019
Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

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

TOWN OFFICERS: Bill Reed, Road Foreman

PUBLIC AND GUESTS:

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

Birthday greetings to Patty Kenyon! No gold-headed cane, though...

Minutes: T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the January 10 meeting and January 15 meetings; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Highway: We've received the bill for work on both plow trucks; both trucks need added repair to the brake systems, but are holding together well enough through these storms. A cable broke on the wing plow of the Freightliner; replacement parts have now arrived.

There was some road overwash from today's warm rain, with ice being washed downstream and forming dams in rivers and streams, under bridges, and in culverts. Most of those went away quickly, but road conditions are inherently unpredictable in this kind of weather.

We're going through a lot of sand, and Bill is looking for an added short-term supply.

Bill is continuing to look for used graders, and has a couple of prospects who are putting together details on their machines for sale. He's also continued his ongoing debates with LifTech over the failed bucket on the backhoe, which they should replace under the warranty.

Town Lands: The building committee met to work on the timeline for the spring vote, and examined comparable property tax rates for neighboring communities. The Selectboard and Fire Association will have a special meeting on January 31 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss planning and financing for the firehouse.

Solid Waste: Hubbard has tried several times to replace the computer controller for the recycling compactor, and has not had success with that repair. Their technician is supposed to finalize the job tomorrow, and has "guaranteed" that it'll be repaired by Saturday.

Correspondence:

- Contract from Russell Graphics for production of revised Town property maps. T. Redfield moved to approve the Russell Graphics contract for town parcel mapping; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. C. Fenton signed on behalf of the Board.

- Fleet request from Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete. H. Childress moved to approve their application; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- VTRANS request for weight limits on roads and bridges
- Notice from VT Department of Taxes: a notice of CLA change of greater than 5% from last year to this year, which triggers their recommendation to reappraise the Grand List. However, as they noted in their letter, the CLA change from 2017 to 2018 has been in the direction of greater accuracy, from roughly 108 to 101. We will ask the listers to confer with the Department of Taxes' district coordinator for their recommendations.

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

Legal: The audit is well underway, with H. Childress as project lead and the Treasurer, Clerk and Auditors providing information. Our goal is to have all documentation to the accounting firm by 2/15, with their site visit and conferences in late February.

Other Business: the amount to be raised by taxes from the Town for general government operations last year was \$235,835, this year \$230,575; for highway last year \$292,450, this year \$296,750; the total for last year was \$528,285, this year \$527,325. Even with the budget increases for facilities reserve accounts for fire company and for transfer station, we are working with a very slightly smaller overall taxpayer request for FY2020 than for FY2019. This bodes well for our ability to budget carefully for new facilities without extensive tax burden on the community.

Adjourn: H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk