

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, July 26, 2018**  
**Regular Meeting Approved Minutes**

**BOARD PRESENT:** H. Childress, C. Fenton, C. Haynes, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield  
**TOWN OFFICERS:** Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Sarah Grimm, Auditor; Jenny Talke Muniak, Town Treasurer; Bill Reed, Road Foreman  
**PUBLIC AND GUESTS:** None  
**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:31 p.m.

**Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the July 12 meeting; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> ; [*C. Haynes abstained, all others in favor, motion carried*].

**Town Officers:** The town clerk and H. Childress attended a secretary of state training on the new accessible voting system, which should be available for use in the August primary.

Treasurer J. Muniak presented the end-of-year financials. The Town general budget ended the year at a \$760 deficit, mostly because of insufficient payment of taxes; spending was below budget, and other income was above. The Highway budget ended the year at a surplus of \$28,340.

She presented a 2018-19 tax rate calculation, based on the grand list lodged on Monday 7/23. Her estimate is that the Town tax rate will be \$0.4150, and the Highway tax rate will be \$0.3290. Last year's Town tax rate was \$0.3525, with most of this year's increase being due to allocations for the fire department facility and law enforcement. the Highway budget last year was \$0.34 last year, so this year's will represent a reduction. H. Childress moved to adopt a 2018-19 Town tax rate of \$0.4150 and a Highway tax rate of \$0.3290; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

The State has set the 2018-19 education tax rate at \$1.3592 for homestead, and \$1.4593 for non-residential.

C. Haynes moved that the Auditors be charged with obtaining vendors and pricing to conduct a professional audit of the 2017-18 fiscal year; C. Fenton 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*Aye—C. Fenton, C. Haynes; Nay—H. Childress, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield*]. The auditors are at work on learning what other towns are spending for their professional audit, but there is no consideration of this in the current year's budget.

**Highway:** Bill received a complaint from one of the bidders on the Norton Road project that the board's bidding process was improperly handled and communicated.

The Norton project itself is going well, with regular review by Josh Carvajal of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Bill has received one application for road crew member. We will discuss that application in executive session later in the meeting. The new part-time employee is doing well, and Bill is introducing him gradually to new tasks and skills.

Poultney is replacing a culvert on 140 near the town line; Bill is asking their contractor for a quote to extend their paving work from the town line to the bridge, and will ask for other quotes for our consideration. P. Kenyon moved to ask Bill to obtain quotes for paving the quarter-mile of 140 between the town line and bridge; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Bill is preparing a bid specification for the wing walls and foundation pour related to the Spruce Knob culvert replacement project, to be finalized once he knows a delivery date for the culvert itself.

Bill has communicated with Earle's Truck Repair on rebuild for winter readiness on the 7600; he will take the truck there next week for them to do an estimate.

Bill is planning on spending a day grading once the rains are completed early next week.

**Town Lands:** The building committee has a letter of interest to the Tarrant Foundation to explore their interest in project funding, co-signed by Library, Friends of Library, Selectboard and Building Committee. T. Redfield moved to sign that letter of interest; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The Building Committee is developing a brochure that explains the project and its fundraising opportunities, and are also talking with other communities about their fundraising experience.

The thirty-day period for comments on the conveyance of the property around the Middletown Springs Elementary School to the Wells Springs Unified Union School District has now ended, and the Board signed the warranty deed completing that property conveyance.

Two different board members received a complaint about the signs removed from the town property.

**Solid Waste:** As of September 1, the Town will be charged fifteen cents per pound for non-covered electronic waste.

**Correspondence:**

- Vermont Center for independent Living: thank you for \$100 town donation
- Further communication from Pepper and Cynthia Clayton re: their desire for bear mitigation
- Certification of insurance for James Seamens Logging

- Note from Ed Cleveland regarding the Board's questions about the Pawlet board assistant, constables, and roadside mowing
- Message from VTEL engineer Judy Paton to Bill Reed regarding amendments to Norton Road fiber-optic installation
- Check for \$94.86 from National Center for Electronics Recycling: forwarded to Treasurer
- Advertisements for Comcast, Bobcat, HealthSide Publishing

**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 vacancy for Delinquent Tax Collector will not be filled through election until Town Meeting 2019. H. Childress will contact the Wells Town Office for their interest, and will post for interest on Front Porch Forum as well.

H. Childress moved to enter executive session to consider personnel issues, inviting Bill Reed to remain; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Executive session entered at 9:45 pm

H. Childress moved to exit executive session. C. Haynes moved to set a special board session to meet with the highway candidate; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Adjourn:** C. Haynes moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk