

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, March 22, 2018
Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Laura Castle, Town Clerk; Sarah Grimm, Auditor; Jenny Talke Muniyak, Treasurer; Bill Reed, Road Commissioner

PUBLIC PRESENT: David Muniyak

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes as modified from the March 8 meeting; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Town Officers. Laura has begun working on calling write-in candidates. The Planning Commission is now filled, Hilary Solomon and John Arsenault will serve new terms.

We have permission to store the ballot boxes upstairs in an upper room of the Historical Society. We may be able to store some non-privacy materials upstairs as well. That may assist in space demands.

The Town Clerk has hired an assistant town clerk: Heather Gier (House). She has signed her oath of office. H. Childress moved to offer \$14/hr for the position; T. Redfield 2nd [*Aye—Childress, Fenton, Kenyon, Redfield; Nay—Haynes; motion carried*]. J. Muniyak asked C. Haynes why he didn't voice his opposition during the discussion period; he declined to respond.

The Treasurer has reported that the budget updates are complete through February. She will have the March recaps to the Board by e-mail before our next meeting. Tax day brought in \$281,553.

Auditor Grimm is still investigating the income from traffic fines. The judiciary fees take up a substantial component of the total tickets.

Road Commissioner. T. Redfield moved to sign the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

The Highway crew is beginning its spring vehicle maintenance and service sequence; brakes, sanders, welding repairs, bearings, oil service, buying a spare tire and wheel for the Freightliner, etc. The crew will be doing brush cutting, repairing road-edge damage from plowing, and preparing work areas for major summer projects. P. Kenyon moved to approve brake work on the one-ton pickup for up to \$1600, and to purchase one spare wheel and tire for the Freightliner; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Kitt Shaw is leaving the RRPC, and Bill is working with him on transition knowledge before Kitt leaves in June. Bill is also working with Josh Carvajal on designing bank stabilization and other road projects for 2018.

Bill will be on vacation in mid-April; Terry Redfield will be the contact person for road assistance in his absence.

Town Lands. The Building Committee has some, but not all, numbers from the estimator, and will review them at their next meeting. They will present their thoughts after the next meeting, as well as the development of a project management charter.

Solid Waste. We may need to reconsider the size of our compost collection buckets; the program has been quite successful. Hubbard has sold their streetside collection contracts to Casella, but maintains their municipal contracts; the Transfer Station will not be impacted.

Correspondence

- Catalogs from Channing Bete (public health publications), Jesco (John Deere Parts), Brown's Quarried Slate Products
- Request for insurance waiver from Carrara Hot Oil Rustproofing
- VT AOT Mapping division—haven't received Certificate of Highway Mileage yet
- Requests for overweight permit from:
 - Champlain Valley Plumbing/Heating
 - Weston Pulpwood Sales
 - Brown's Quarries
 - Duquette Forestry Transportation
 - H. Childress moved to approve the four overweight permits; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- SWAC Newsletter
- Notification of grant program from VT rural fire protection task force
- Notification of VLCT Property Tax Appeals workshop, May 1 (Rutland), May 8 (Burlington); VLCT Selectboard Institute (March 24, Fairlee)
- RRPC request for naming someone as the transportation representative
- Notice of services offered by Trees Incorporated

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

Legal. The current junk and junk vehicle violation is approaching the thirty days since the property owner was formally notified by Rutland County Sheriff's Deputy Ed Hunter, the Town's designated enforcement officer. H. Childress will work with the Town's attorney to develop the procedure for assessing fines, notifying property owners in violation, accounting for the accumulation of fines, and to discuss the legal consequences of those fines.

Other Business.

- Town Officer appointments. The two leading write-in candidates for Planning Commission (Hilary Solomon and John Arsenault) have accepted their posts; Terry Redfield will act as Tree Warden; Dan McKeen will be appointed as the town's Copeland Church Fund trustee; H. Childress will act as the Emergency Management officer.
- LEOP and emergency management. The emergency operations plan needs to be complete by April 30. H. Childress will work with other Town entities to update and revise the plan.
- Law Enforcement. Ballot item #8 ("Shall the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs authorize the Select Board to add \$8,500 to the budgeted contract with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, to increase law enforcement coverage for the Town?") passed at town meeting by a close vote of 169-143. All four of the joint coverage communities (Middletown, Ira, Tinmouth & Danby) approved the full level of funding for the 2018-19 fiscal year. We will begin conversations about allocation of that patrol officer in the coming month.
- Policy Review. H. Childress moved to adopt the Policy on Employees and Public Officials Working Off-Site; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. T. Redfield moved to adopt the Investment Policy; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Adjourn. T. Redfield moved to adjourn, H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk