

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Thursday, September 28, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting Approved Minutes**

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

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** L. Castle, Clerk; S. Grimm, Auditor; B. Reed, Road Foreman.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** John Arsenault, Michael Bowen, Burt Harvey, Don Hemenway, Ron Masleh

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

**Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the 9/14 meeting; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of the 9/9 meeting with a corrected name of a public participant; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Public Comments:**

- Ron Masleh submitted a public action request having to do with junk and junk vehicles located on properties on North, West and East Street. The Board requested that a public action request be submitted on each property in question, and explained that without a compliance officer, the Board does not yet know how best to respond to these complaints. Ron modified the first form to specify that the first complaint is in regards to the Haynes properties on East Street, and presented it to the Board.
- The Board provided Michael Bowen with a copy of our approved minutes from September 9.
- Don Hemenway appeared as a representative of the volunteer fire association. They've run out of space, need a new roof (which the current structure may not support), and can't borrow against the building to make repairs. P. Kenyon responded that since the Fire Association is not a Town function, the Select Board's role is limited to helping the Association frame a proposal to the voters for their consideration. The Fire Association is about to contact some contractors to get rough estimates on the construction of an 80' x 120' new building (five bays @ 16' x 40' x 16', plus kitchen, office, storage, etc.). Ron Masleh proposed that we have a broader Town meeting having to do with larger future expenditures.

**Town Officers:** Laura Castle spent two days in Killington with statewide group of town clerks; they advocate that the Town have a work-at-home policy. H. Childress will investigate examples and bring samples to the Board for consideration.

The treasurer submitted a formal request from People's Bank to have the Town Treasurer be added as a signer to any MTS accounts using the town Tax Information Number. The SB reaffirmed their support of this.

**Town Lands:** John Arsenault appeared as representative of the Old Cemetery Task Force, with much to report.

- The Task Force has appointed Kelly McIlheney as a member of the group.
- They have acquired an aerial photograph to use as a base for hand mapping and GIS mapping, perhaps to be conducted by Green Mountain College student(s). Dorset Historical Society has a GIS grid of their entire cemetery, searchable by name of grave.
- The Copeland Cemetery Fund founding documents indicate that the Copeland Fund is intended for the support of the Pleasant View Cemetery only.
- In 1902, the Town voted to establish a Cemetery Commission. As far as the Task Force can tell, there haven't been Cemetery Commission officers on a ballot for at least fifty years. That leaves the Select board to be the *de facto* Commission. It is uncertain whether the Cemetery Commission was officially disbanded by the Town, or if it was simply neglected. The Board could place the revitalization of the Cemetery Commission on the ballot at Town Meeting 2018.
- Tom Giffin (president of Vermont Old Cemetery Association) did a demonstration of restoration work for the Task Force, and would like to do a demonstration of stone straightening (and possibly for epoxy repair of a stone) for the Select board on a weekend in late October (10/22-23 or 10/29-30).
- There's still no certainty about best steps for the Gardner monument; no final plans have been established for leveling it.
- The Task Force has received three estimates for removal of the pine tree, ranging from approximately \$5,000 to \$17,000, using very different techniques. They've also spoken with two arborists who propose some management techniques that may extend the life of the tree; Limbwalkers has made a firm estimate of \$2,200 for trimming. The Task Force recommends that the Town contract with Limbwalkers to do trimming, as a way to prevent sudden catastrophic failure; and also recommends that the Town begin to set aside money for full removal in the relatively near future. The Task Force will provide the Board with all work estimates, so that we can consider their recommendation at a coming meeting.
- The Town has budgeted deposits to a reserve fund for the Old Cemetery for at least the past twelve years, at levels ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per year. Much of that has been spent for mowing and trimming, but a current balance of \$6,175 remains in that account (plus the \$2,000 allocated in the FY 2018 budget).

The Board expressed its thanks to the Task Force for its extensive and thoughtful work.

The Building Committee met to prepare for the cost estimation, requesting estimation for a list of specific construction options, and for possible cost reductions based on volunteer labor for some aspects of the work (foundation work, painting, etc.). A group

from the Committee will go to visit the recently constructed town office in Lincoln VT on Monday 10/2.

**Road Foreman:**

- The new backhoe has arrived. Liftech is coming next week to conduct a service overview.
- The foundation is poured for the Garron Road box culvert. The Highway crew has done some labor for Waite, and he's reduced his bill by approximately \$980 for that. Once the deck is completed, it needs to cure for at least 14 days before opening the road to traffic.
- The sander has a new chain, and the old sander needs a sprocket. The one-ton has cracks in the dump-bed frame, which will be welded. The Freightliner needs service, inspection, and winter undercoating. The 7600 needs a new hydraulic motor for the spinner assembly. Bill is buying plow edges and shoes for winter use.
- Bill's meeting next week with Chet McCullen to put up winter sand.
- Day to day work has included ditch maintenance, culvert replacement, building and equipment maintenance, tree and shrub trimming, replacing street signs, prep for guardrails.
- The Board will do a drive-around of town roads with Bill at 8:30 am on Saturday.

**Solid Waste:** Large waste day is Saturday October 7. A fee of \$5 per vehicle load will be charged for large waste, with no fee for scrap metal. Refrigerant-bearing materials will be collected at the Transfer Station, at \$20 per item.

**Correspondence:**

- A notice from Irving Energy regarding above-ground tank inspection.
- A recycling check from Casella, for \$17.25.
- An invoice for \$600 from Long Trail Engineering for water testing.
- A 2018 renewal package from VLCT PACIF insurance; the Board needs to review the information sheet before renewal.
- An announcement for the fall VLCT planning and zoning forum.

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

**Other business:** T. Redfield and H. Childress attended a meeting held by members of the Vermont Senate Government Operations committee, to take information about the status and next steps for law enforcement in Vermont. The State Senate may propose legislation this coming session to increase rural communities' access to law enforcement response.

With regards to the junk complaint, it is possible that the Board would refer this to the Sheriff's department for first contact with the two properties under complaint. We will ask

the Treasurer to document the costs specific to this enforcement effort (Sheriff's time, attorney's time, etc.). We will discuss action options at the October 12 meeting, after consultation with our attorney.

**Adjourn:** H. Childress moved to adjourn; C. Fenton 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].  
Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Clerk