

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Official Minutes
Regular Meeting • February 27, 2020**

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Moderator Kimberly Bushnell; Town Clerk Laura Castle; Auditor Sarah Grimm; Town Treasurer Jenny Talke Munyak; Road Commissioner Bill Reed

PUBLIC PRESENT: Elizabeth Cooper, Kevin Eaton, Peter Stevenson

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM, by Vice Chair T. Redfield

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. — the Dalai Lama

MINUTES: H. Childress moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2020; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

PUBLIC:

Elizabeth Cooper

- Elizabeth Cooper appeared on behalf of the Conservation Commission. There's a lot of confusion about who's on the Commission. Richard Kniffin is going off, Elizabeth Cooper, Steve Harrington and Tasha Turan are staying on, and Rhonda Phillips has applied to come on; there would remain one vacancy. The Commission will determine which commissioners are serving which terms; the Selectboard will review that recommendation for approval.
- There was some conversation over the Town's budget allotment for the Conservation Commission, mostly having to do with confusion over which fiscal year the sign for Sullivan Woods was charged to. That question is now resolved.
- The MSES has proposed constructing an outhouse at Sullivan Woods, but not all of the members of the Conservation Commission knew about that. If the school students continue to work on the project, the Board will ensure that the Conservation Commission is formally in the loop.
- At the School's request, P. Kenyon has conferred with the Agency of Natural Resources on the regulations over outhouses. ANR has determined that an outhouse would not be permitted, and that a portable chemical toilet wouldn't be reasonable in that location. The school will now send the 6th grade on a field trip to the ANR office to determine how environmental regulations are determined.
- The Conservation Commission has now set a regular meeting at 5:30 on the second Thursday of each month, to be held at the Middletown Springs Public Library.

Kevin Eaton:

- Kevin Eaton appeared in order to represent the Fire Association. The Association will attend regularly to learn if and what is moving forward from the Selectboard related to fire service and facilities. The Fire Association informational dinner is this Saturday 2/29 at the MSES at 5:00, with presentation on the current equipment and the proposed building.
- George Gonda will be prepared to answer questions about the Fire Department/Fire Association at Monday's Town Informational Meeting.
- We discussed the current lease between the Town and the Fire Association, and indicated that the Town's attorney recommended that the Selectboard and the Fire Association begin the process of developing a new lease agreement.
- Terry Redfield requested that the status of the Middletown Springs First Response be clarified, given the legal advice provided to Poultney Rescue Squad.
- Kevin also asked, as a private citizen, about the status of leveling the driveway transitions on West Street, which will be completed once the weather is warmer and material is workable. Mid- to late May seems to be the likely outcome.

TOWN OFFICERS:

Moderator Kimberly Bushnell

- Rick Beal mentioned that he'd assumed that Town Meeting would be held on Monday evening at the school, but that he hadn't received an official request or notification.
- Kimberly also asked for clarification on ballot items that might raise discussion.
- Wells Springs School Board Clerk Nora Sargent asked that the Middletown Elections team take the school ballots to Wells immediately after the close

Town Treasurer Jenny Talke Munyak

- Jenny reported that we're going through a VLCT audit for payroll, and a VTrans audit over grant reimbursement.
- She wanted also to thank Herb and Chris for their Board service, and for the teamwork displayed by the majority of the Board.

Emergency Management Director Herb Childress

- Herb said that he would be willing to serve as EMD for the coming year if the newly configured Board would choose that.
- He also mentioned that Vermont Emergency Management and Vermont Department of Health are both recommending *caution* over coronavirus, but not *concern*. There are no reported cases in VT/NH/NY. At the moment, the precautions are the same as one would normally take: cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, wash your hands regularly and thoroughly, and stay home if you feel sick. If you've recently traveled

abroad, pay particular attention to symptoms, and seek medical attention for flu-like symptoms that you might otherwise ignore.

HIGHWAY: The crew is struggling to keep up with the fluctuations in temperatures and conditions. They removed some downed trees after this morning's wind event. Culvert clearance with slush and mud is now becoming more of an issue, as it does every spring.

The solar installation crew off Orchard Road have been much better about keeping vehicles parked off the roads so that the highway crew can do maintenance. The installation work should conclude mid-March.

Bill and Terry will meet on Friday 2/28 at 9:30 AM with engineers from DuBois & King to consider possible work on Daisy Hollow Road.

TOWN LANDS: The Town has been reimbursed by VTTrans for the West Street engineering study, and that project is now complete. The next step will be to work with FEMA to file for a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) to reflect Otter Creek's finding that the base flood elevation (BFE) is lower than FEMA's BFE, placing more of the site outside the Flood Zone A boundary. H. Childress advised that the next Board contract with an engineering firm to manage the FEMA LOMC process (roughly 90 days between filing and judgment).

Peter Stevenson has finalized an estimate on Michael Beattie's current iteration of the Town Office, and recommended a few changes that might decrease the cost further. Michael may come to the Board to present that. Peter has also done a rough estimate for the alternative that's been presented as a petitioned ballot item, but asked again for Carl to provide a drawing that Peter could use to develop a more accurate estimate; Carl did not respond to that request. Peter and Eileen have also developed alternative models from 1700 to 1800 square feet, and have cost estimates on those alternatives.

He will discuss each of those with the next iteration of the Selectboard.

SOLID WASTE: Glen is registered for the annual training for transfer station management.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- VT Department of Taxes: Corrected CLA and COD for the year (no change from their first calculation)
- Overweight fleet permits from Earth Waste Systems, Duquette Forestry Transportation, and Markowski Excavation, with \$10 filing fee for each. H. Childress moved to approve the overweight permits from Earth Waste Systems, Duquette Forestry Transportation, and Markowski Excavation; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- Invoice for 2020 annual dues from RRPC: \$975

- A reminder that any property transfers adjacent to state highways must demonstrate compliance with State highway access provisions, and be certified as compliant by VTrans.
- Advertisements

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

LEGAL: We discussed the process of working through the confusion over the misconstrued town officer ballot. C. Haynes moved that no strikethroughs be made on ballots distributed at the Election; H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. The BCA will meet at 6:00 PM on Monday March 2nd at the School to review election instructions for Tuesday.

TOWN MEETING: We will set up the Historical Society dining hall for the vote on Monday afternoon at 4 PM.

COMMENTS: The Board expressed its appreciation to H. Childress and C. Fenton for their years of service to the Town and to the Board.

ADJOURN: T. Redfield moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:35 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk*