

## **Middletown Springs Selectboard • Unapproved Minutes Regular Meeting • March 12, 2020**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield, Heather Grier, Neil Russell

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk Laura Castle, Road Commissioner Bill Reed

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Kimberly Bushnell - Librarian, Peter Stevenson, Art Castle - MSFA, Joe Castle - MSFA

**CALLED TO ORDER:** T Redfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**MINUTES: Feb 27, 2020, Mar 5, 2020** – N Russell moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020 as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> H Grier. All in favor - motion carried. Feb 27, N Russell moved to approve the minutes of February 27, 2020 as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> H Grier. All in favor - motion carried.

### **PUBLIC & GUESTS**

**Kimberly Mathewson** – Attended to give the board an update on the current status regarding library facilities.

– Basic issues –

- The building is currently not handicapped accessible with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Library Trustees are investigating best path forward. Whether an addition is possible or if they would be better served to find a new space. They currently have two volunteers, Peter Stevenson & Michael Beattie, helping them dig into and asses their options.

Terry asked about the lot next door to the Library, has the library investigated maybe leasing the lot for parking? Kimberly agreed that was an interesting idea. Also the next place east is for sale, is there some finagling around that property that could happen?

Neil would like to come see the library to get a sense of the accessibility issues in person.

Peter brought up the 2014 Architect study that was done by the Friends of the Library group. Peter's pricing came in at around \$360,000 (2014 pricing) for that proposal. Peter also brought up the potential issues with the current septic, i.e, if you were going to put on an addition it's probable the building would need a new septic system.

Joe Castle stated that the library lot is really wet in the back, so might not be viable for an expanded or new septic system.

This led to a discussion about setting a special meeting to focus solely on facilities so that the board could gather information in order to come up with a plan to move forward.

The board set a special meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 7 PM in the Historical Society dining room. Patty will reach out to the Planning Commission to see if they can come. All others with an interest in any of the current proposed facilities projects will be encouraged to attend as well.

### **TOWN OFFICERS:**

Terry asked Laura to contact Tracy Weatherhogg, as the sole write-in candidate for Auditor who received enough votes, to see if she was willing to serve in that capacity.

Kimberly reported that she has been filling in for Jenny while she is away. Payroll is done, AP has been delayed until our next meeting unless there's something that needs to be paid before then. If that happens the board can issue a hand-written order and she will cut a check. She is also on call to be at the town office to collect taxes on Monday if Jenny hasn't returned.

The board reviewed the town positions and appointments still to be filled after Town Meeting.

### **Town elected positions currently open:**

- Auditor 3 years – Laura will connect with Tracy Weatherhogg to see if she is willing to serve.
- Planning Commission – 3 year term – 1 position vacant. Board will connect with the Planning Commission to try to fill this seat and to take care of the housekeeping that needs to be done in regard to unintended Town Meeting ballot exclusions with the 2019 increase in board makeup.
- Trustee of Public Monies – 3 year seat – 1 position
- Library Trustee – 3 year seat – 1 position
- Town Agent – 1 year – 1 position
- Town Grand Juror – 1 Year – 1 position
- Copeland Cemetery Fund – 1 year – 1 position

### **Town Appointments for 2020**

The board made the following appointments for 2020

- Fence viewer 1 year – The Selectboard will share these duties.
- Tree Warden 1 year – Terry Redfield
- Animal Control Officer – Neil Russell
- Service Officer 1 year – Heather Grier
- Emergency Management Director 1 year – Herb Childress
- SWAC Representatives 1 Year – Glen Moyer; Terry Redfield, Alternate

- Conservation Commission - T Redfield moved to appoint Steve Harrington & Tasha Turan to Conservation Commission until 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> H Grier. All in favor – motion carried.  
There is still one open seat on the Conservation Commission. Current 4 members are Elizabeth Cooper, Rhonda Phillips, Steve Harrington, Tasha Turan
- Copeland Milk Fund – Carl Haynes 3 years, Terry Redfield 2 years, Rodney Tarbell 1 year
- Gold-headed Cane Recipient – Selectboard will work on this

Delinquent Tax Collector Liaison – Heather Grier

Highway Liaison – Terry Redfield

The following Appointments are still open:

- Health Office 3 years – Carl Haynes expires 2020 (see correspondence below for more information)
- Conservation Commission 1 open position
- Rutland Regional Transportation Council 1 year
- Representative to Rutland Regional Planning Commission 1 year
- Constable 1 year
- Weigher of Coal, Timber, and Shingles 1 year

#### **TOWN HIGHWAY:**

Bill updated the board on the latest mud season issues. Generally, it's not as bad as in the past, but there are still some problem areas. Plus, it's early yet, so he doesn't want to grade too soon and have it be counterproductive. He plans to address some high spots and keep an eye on the weather to determine what to do as we move ahead. Problem spots are on Fitzgerald and Daisy Hollow by Rt 133, and one spot on Mountain Road that Bill closed to everything but local traffic. He hasn't officially posted the roads and doesn't want to.

The road crew is looking forward to starting work on the project on Spruce Knob that needs to be done by the end of the fiscal year. He's going to need to spend most of May concentrating on that project. Will need to put the headwalls out to bid for that soon.

Bill is going working to arrange a visit to the new Mount Holly Town Garage building for interested parties and Selectboard members to get an idea of what goes into a 21<sup>st</sup> century town garage facility.

#### **TOWN LANDS:**

Special Meeting to discuss facilities scheduled for March 19, 7 PM.

#### **SOLID WASTE:**

Glen Moyer appointed as the SWAC Rep – Terry as the alternate

Bill asked about a possible Tire Day before mosquito season. The board will consider it. Terry will do some research on timing, costs, etc.

NOTICE: Big Dump Day will be Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> instead of Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> as posted in the Town Report. Change of day was made to avoid the trash hauler's busiest day of the year, which we hope translates to less hassles for us on the day of the event. Terry will take care of posting the changed date. Large waste will be charged \$5 per vehicle, trailers are \$5 additional to trash in the bed of a truck.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- VT Dept of Health – Letter informing us that Carl Haynes Health Officer Certificate expires April 30, 2020
- VT Dept of Health – Literature announcing Training Opportunities happening on a variety of dates from March thru May 2020.
- Catalog from Woodland Fire Forestry Suppliers
- Thank you from ARC Rutland Area for Town Meeting vote approval.
- VLCT Newsletter

**BOARD ORDERS:** P Kenyon moved to approve the board orders as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> N Russell. All in favor - Motion carried.

**LEGAL:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Patty received and read an email from EMD, H Childress regarding COVID-19. The email contained the latest updates from the VT Dept of Health and recommendations for Town Offices and town events as we move through this pandemic. Herb has also made regular posts on Front Porch Forum and will continue to do so, in order to keep townspeople apprised of new developments or recommendations as they occur.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURN:** H Grier moved to adjourn at 9:07 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> N Russell. All in favor - motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:07 PM

*Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Kenyon, Selectboard Clerk*