

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • April 9, 2020

BOARD PRESENT: In person: Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield, Neil Russell, Heather Grier, Carl Haynes

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Via Zoom Meeting - Emergency Management Director - Herb Childress, Town Treasurer – Jenny Munyak, Auditor - Sarah Grimm, Lister – Sally Achey, Delinquent Tax Collector – Debra House

PUBLIC PRESENT: Via Zoom Meeting – Clarence Haynes

CALL TO ORDER: T Redfield called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 3/12/2020 Regular Meeting & 3/19/2020 Emergency Meeting

Neil Russell moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2020 and March 19, 2020 as presented, 2nd Terry Redfield. Motion carried (Neil Russell – Aye, Heather Grier – Aye, Terry Redfield – Aye, Patty Kenyon – Aye, Carl Haynes – Abstain)

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: None

TOWN OFFICERS:

Corona Virus Update: Herb updated the board on the current situation regarding the pandemic. VT looks to be flattening out some – people seem to be following the stay home, stay safe recommendations. Now is the time to be even more vigilant. Chittenden and Addison County hardest hit by a longshot. RRMC has an outboard facility at Spartan Arena ready to go but not open yet. That facility has a capacity of 150 patients – it's still unclear whether that facility will house non COVID-19 patients or patients infected with COVID-19.

Nora Rubinstein has started a meal service with Corey Best and Sissy Hicks to supplement potential food insecurity issues. 20 meals will be offered on Tuesday and 20 meals on Saturday through this initiative. Friends of the Library will be the fiscal sponsor to accept donations. The idea is to raise enough funds to cover the costs for the meals through donations from community members.

Federal Disaster designation has been granted to Vermont by the federal government. Any expenses the Town incurs directly related to the pandemic needs to be tracked so that we can receive reimbursement on those expenses.

If board members hear of a family in trouble/crisis let Herb know so he can figure out a way to build out resources for those folks.

Herb emailed the board a draft of the annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). The plan needs to be approved by the board by the end of April so he would like board members to review the draft and send any changes, questions,

recommendations to him so he can edit and resend prior to the next meeting at which the board will be asked to approve the plan. There is one piece that is not yet ready for publication. That is the continuity of services plan which maps out our steps to handle a sudden inability for any person or organization in town to perform their duties. This plan is being developed by working with town officials, employees, and organizations. Once this plan is ready it can be added to the LEMP as an addendum. Our current situation with the pandemic underscores the need for this important piece of the overall plan.

Town Health Officer Re-appointment: Carl's appointment as health officer expires on April 30, 2020. Appointment is for three-year term. Carl said the position has gotten a lot more complicated, but he's still willing to do it.

Terry moved to appoint Carl Haynes as Town Health Officer for the next three years, April 30, 2020 to April 30, 2023, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Property Tax preparedness/considerations: Sally & Jenny have been working on tax preparation given the extended Homestead Declaration dates. Their plan is to follow our normal schedules at this point and that the extended Homestead Declaration deadline does not unduly affect their ability to move ahead on schedule with the day to day. If things change on the state level we will adjust as needed.

Sally reported that we have one tax appeal waiting at the state level to be heard. This means that we cannot close the 2019 Grand List until the state has heard the appeal or the homeowner drops the appeal.

Sally also reported that the Listers are not doing any interior reassessments this year and are adhering to the state's guidelines regarding assessment work during the pandemic.

TOWN HIGHWAY - Road Commissioner Report – written report from Bill:

Highway crew is working on the following

- General road & equipment maintenance
- Rock raking roads
- Graveling over exposed road fabric & stone used in mud season
- Rough grading all roads
- Ditching – cleaning – water bars
- Filling potholes
- Removing berms on road shoulders & under guardrails
- Cleaning paved swails
- Cleaning debris from all roads and D/I's
- Old cemetery & town lots clean up

Bill also reported

- 2 "Road Closed" signs were stolen from Coy Hill Road. Total cost to replace those signs \$400.

- The State has put all grant projects on hold
- He's been pricing out trucks to replace the 1-ton.

Neil weighed in that he'd like the board to think about replacing the 1-ton with a bigger more durable vehicle – a 550 is his suggestion. When Bill is available to be part of the discussion, the board will revisit this idea.

TOWN LANDS: The board has put off the talks on buildings for the immediate future. At the next regular meeting the board will revisit this and is open to scheduling a Zoom meeting to try to put together a plan for the path forward.

SOLID WASTE:

SWAC Household Hazardous Waste event rescheduled to October 3, 2020
SWAC annual meeting happening via Zoom on May 14th
Green Up Day postponed from May 2nd to May 30th
Big Dumpster Day: Postpone to ?

Terry moved to reschedule Big Dumpster Day to the first Saturday in June - June 6, Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- VT DEC – Dam Registration
- Flyer from Granite State Cover & Canvas
- VTrans – Letter re: Town Highway and Bridge Weight Restriction Filings
- Overweight permits –
 - Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating
 - HOP Energy / Keyser Energy
 - Johnson Energy
 - Camp Precast
 - Fuller Sand & Gravel

Regarding the overweight permits, there were a couple we thought we had already addressed, there were some that did not include certificates of insurance, for all, Laura has the checks.

Regarding the VTrans letter on Bridge and Weight Restriction Filings, the board was unclear what exactly this was and needs input from the Road Commissioner.

Carl moved to table the approval of overweight permits and completing the Bridge Weight Restriction Filings until Terry and Bill can review and clarify the status of each item, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

BOARD ORDERS: Patty moved to approve board orders as presented, 2nd Neil. All in favor, motion carried.

LEGAL: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discuss Planning Commission Terms – Re-Appoint members - tabled

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Terry moved the board enter Executive session at 8:40pm to discuss confidential aspects of the Food Assistance program and confidential pandemic issues, Heather 2nd. The board invited Herb to join us as Emergency Management Director. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit Executive Session at 9:28pm, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

No action taken.

ADJOURN: Carl moved to adjourn at 9:30pm, Neil 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Clerk