

Middletown Springs Select Board
Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes

January 9, 2020

SB Members Present: Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield, Chris Fenton, Carl Haynes

Town Officers Present: Laura Castle - Town Clerk, Bill Reed – Road Commissioner, Jenny Talke Munyak - Treasurer, Sarah Grimm - Auditor

Guests & Public Present: Peter Stevenson, Joe Gunter, Katrina Davenport, Debbie Hoisington, & Kevin Eaton – Poultney Rescue Squad,

Call to order: at 7pm by Chris Fenton

Approval of Minutes 12-26-19 & 1-2-20 Meetings – Terry Redfield moved to approve the minutes of December 26, 2019 and January 1, 2020 as presented, 2nd Patty Kenyon. Motion carried.

Public comments & Guests

Joe Gunter – Here tonight to talk about USDA Rural Development Grant and State development grant for a small business. He is looking for sponsorship from the town on the grant forms. It is required to have Selectboard sponsorship to be eligible for the grant applications. The money would need to pass through the town's bank accounts, the Town becomes the official grantee and the business is the sub-grantee.

USDA Rural Development Grant - USDA grant ask \$7100. Joe intends to apply for the USDA grant this winter and if that doesn't come through he will apply for the State grant.

Carl Haynes moved that the board supports Joe Gunter in his letter of intent to apply for a USDA Rural Development Grant for his farm on Donohue Road. Terry Redfield seconded and the motion carried.

Poultney Rescue Squad – Katrina Davenport, Debbie Hoisington, Kevin Eaton. Presented town funding request – per capita request has increased to \$10 per capita total is \$8230 an increase of \$3930 from last year. Population of Middletown figured at 823 from the 2000 census. The board questioned the number. Poultney Rescue agreed to double check the number and use the latest 2010 state census figures and resubmit the dollar amount ask. After board research later, the State's 2017-2018 population for Middletown Springs was found to be 749. We will anticipate that Poultney Rescue will resubmit their ask using that figure. Link to the census data is below.

https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/02/STAT_2000-2010_Census_Counts_and_Population_Estimates_Bulletin.pdf

The board also asked the rescue squad members about the current status of Middletown Springs First Response situation. Currently both organizations are operating at status quo. In short, the splitting to the two organizations was initiated to comply with new Federal Laws regarding EIN numbers the need to separate the entities in the eyes of the Fed Tax law. The squad will plan to attend an upcoming meeting within the next month or so with their attorney to address this situation and try to come to a mutually agreeable understanding.

Kevin Eaton – Fire Association VP – thought others were going to be here tonight – considering ballot item for August most likely because they don't feel they will be ready for a March vote. Also looking for a solid understanding about ownership of the building vs. property. The Selectboard is planning to do an initial review of the draft lease tonight once the board has done that, they will reach out to the Fire Association with suggestions for moving forward.

Kevin also asked about the West Street paving and driveway entrances and what we can do to make those transitions better. Bill said town crew is aware of the issues and is working to get the issues addressed as soon as weather and conditions allow.

Town officers – Clerk, Treasurer, Auditors – Jenny gave a brief update, tax collections on trend. She is working on payroll tax forms now as well as ongoing training of the Assistant Treasurer. While that training is happening, she is writing her procedure manual for the job. She noted that the current Assistant Treasurer has no interest in someday becoming the Town Treasurer, therefore she is simultaneously looking for someone interested in taking over as Town Treasurer in the future.

Town Highway

Road Commissioners / Highway Report

- Trying to keep the ruts out of the road –
- Flood warning is in effect over the weekend. –
- Halfway through sand supply
- Blew a tire on the 7600 – needs to go in to service, so until he has it looked at it's out of service.
- Working on culverts to make sure they are opened up
- Solar people at the orchard are driving him nuts.

Budget preparation

- Library sent in their budget request at \$27,772,
- First Response \$3000,
- Poultney Rescue \$10 per capita - 749 is the 2018 population

- Next Budget meeting Thursday 1/16/20 – at 7pm hopefully to finalize the budget
- Carl requests that we add an article to the warning this year to ratify last town meetings' vote because of the date error on the warning published in the Town Report. The warning as signed by the Selectboard had the correct dates, but an earlier draft found its way into the Town Report.

Town Lands – Otter Creek Engineering is now 100% done with the West Street study, with no substantial changes since the 90% draft we received in October. They are sending one bound copy for the town office. They believe that the hydrological modeling they've done supports a re-lining of the FEMA Zone A flood designation, and that we can use that data to petition for a Letter of Map Amendment. That'll open more of the site to construction that doesn't need flood insurance, but the VT ANR river corridor boundary is still the governing feature for any placement of structures or other hard improvements.

Solid waste – no report

Correspondence:

- VTrans letter – 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage – Due February 20th, 2020 – Bill says that nothing has changed so it should be good to go.

Terry Redfield moved to sign and return the Certificate of Highway Mileage for 2020 with no changes. Patty Kenyon seconded and the motion carried.

- Letter from MS First Response asking for \$3000 this year down from \$4000 last year.
- Library budget & request - \$27,772.

Board Orders – Terry Redfield moved to approve the board orders as presented. Carl Haynes seconded, and the motion carried.

Legal – review FD Lease – After review of the draft lease presented, the board would like to keep it simple with the following objectives.

1. Establish ownership,
2. Proceed with any lease that is geared toward the current situation as an interim

Other business

- Chris Fenton let the board know he's not planning on running for his Selectboard seat in 2020. He no longer has the time and energy necessary to serve. Board members thanked Chris for his four years of dedicated service to the town.

Town Report Layout – decision – The board has two proposals to consider.

- Beth Miller: \$35/hour not to exceed \$2000, plus approximately \$100 in materials

- Jon Jensmouth/Accura Printing (Barre): \$1,884, which includes printing and layout/proofreading services, plus mailing services at an additional \$164.00

Terry Redfield moved to award the Town Report to Beth Miller per her quote of \$35 per hour not to exceed \$2000 plus approximately \$100 in materials. Patty Kenyon seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Session - none

Adjourn - Terry Redfield moved to adjourn at 9:31pm – meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Budget – Thursday, 1/16/19 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Acting Clerk