

Middletown Springs Select Board

Approved Minutes of September 12, 2019

Town Officers Present: Terry Redfield, Chris Fenton - Chair, Patty Kenyon, Carl Haynes, Laura Castle – Town Clerk, Sarah Grimm - Auditor, Bill Reed - Road Foreman, Absent: Herb Childress

Public Present: Don Hemenway

Call to order: Chris Fenton called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Approval of Minutes 8-22-2019 Regular Meeting – Terry Redfield moved to approve the minutes of 8/22/2019 as presented. Patty Kenyon seconded and the motion carried.

Public comments & Guests: Don Hemenway – Representing the Fire Association – Don and Terry reported that the Fire Association has discussed the items that the Selectboard asked them to address. The Fire Department has a drawing of a proposed building done by an architect. Patty shared that the Selectboard has started planning for the vote by putting together an outline that will help guide the process forward. A November 19 vote would give us the most time to get all the disparate pieces together for a vote.

Town officers – Clerk, Auditors, Treasurer: Laura expressed that she is running out of room for documents. The safe is full – she is beyond cramped. There are new laws requiring more paperwork.

Sarah advised that the Auditors will come to a board meeting at some point in the near future to discuss the Outside Auditors report and recommendations and the work being done to address the suggestions.

Town Highway: Road Commissioners report – There was a lengthy discussion about the latest issues with the backhoe, the still unresolved issue with the backhoe bucket and what our next steps should be to try to find some resolution. The board laid out the options in front of us.

- Touch base with JCB and see if we can get any satisfaction – beyond Liftech
- Get the bucket repaired at Bill Lyle's – and pay for it ourselves.
- Ask for the JCB heavy duty bucket and we pay the difference in price.
- Trade in backhoe for another machine – John Deere, Cat, etc.

Given all these options and the fact that withholding payment on the loan has not influenced the dealer to help get to a satisfactory resolution and we don't want the town to suffer financial consequences for late or non-payment...

Chris Fenton moved that the board release from hold the JCB finance payment due in September. Patty Kenyon seconded and the motion carried.

Moving forward Bill will work on the option of reaching out to JCB through another avenue. He will also connect with another JCB dealer to inquire about the cost of a replacement bucket as well as investigate aftermarket buckets that might be compatible.

Current work is focused on replacing culverts around town. The road crew continues to struggle with identifying VTel's fiber option lines along the roadways.

The crew has done some work on the Norton Road in preparation for a culvert replacement project on Spruce Knob Road which will re-route some traffic through Norton Road during constructions.

Paving on West Street is delayed until the end of September at this point.

Bill talked about the plan to replace the 1-ton truck this fall. He recommends we put this off until spring. He would like to explore other options so that we can purchase a truck that is the best fit for our current practices and needs.

Bill would like to review highway personnel policies to explore requiring CDL certification for new personnel.

Terry would like to schedule a visit to view some some culvert issues on Garron Road that will need some work to keep them from affecting the traveled roadway. Chris, Terry, and Carl will shoot for a site visit on Sunday at 11am

Herb & Bill are meeting with FEMA next week to go over the reimbursements from the April storms.

There is a meeting at Peschl's property tomorrow morning at 10am to look at the issues they are concerned about on the Poultney River. Josh Carvajal will also attend to share his thoughts on their concerns.

Town Lands

Building committee – Patty reported the Building Committee continues working on the work that need to happen to get ready for a vote in November.

West Street Property- Craig from Otter Creek Engineering will be finishing the 90% report in 2 weeks and sending it to us and to ANR and to VTrans for commentary.

Solid waste- Big Dump Day is Saturday October 5th - New hours 7am to noon. Chris will order dumpsters (4) and ask that they deliver all of them prior to Saturday morning.

Correspondence

- VTel Letter – offering to provide an information session on their fiber and the need for battery backup in times of power outages. The board is happy to have them come. Chris will connect with VTel and set it up intending to use the School's multipurpose room to host the meeting.
- Letter from the RRPC – encouraging our participation in the Regional Transportation Council (RRTC)– participation is difficult as RRTC meetings fall on the same night as Selectboard meetings.
- Invoice from Long Trail Engineering RE Water permit work
- Invoice from Otter Creek Engineering RE: West St property study
- American Red Cross – 2020 request for appropriation \$250 – Town Clerk created 2020 appropriations folder and filed the request there.
- MSHS Newsletter
- VLCT Town Fair Conference Book
- Email from Kristal Hier – Chair of the Library board. –Would like to begin a discussion with the SB on how to move forward with planning and budgeting now post Outside Auditor recommendations.
- A note from the Handy's informing the BCA and Selectboard that they will continue their tax assessment grievance by bringing it to the next step with the state.
- The hazard mitigation plan has been approved by the state. The Selectboard needs to adopt the plan at the next meeting.

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

Legal – none

Other business – Carl reported on the status of First Response and Poultney Rescue Squad. First Response state license renewal is due soon – proof of insurance needs to go with the license – Carl is working with Poultney now to find out whether Poultney is still covering First Response on their policy or whether we need to follow through with acquiring insurance through the town's policy for First Response – stay tuned for more information soon. Things may need to move quickly if the need is established.

Also, Poultney Rescue says that they never received a letter from our lawyer. **Herb, can we check on that with the lawyer?**

Executive Session: none

Adjourn: Carl Haynes moved to adjourn at 9:33pm, Patty Kenyon seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patty Kenyon, Acting Clerk