

## **Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • May 28, 2020**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Patty Kenyon and Heather Grier via Zoom, at the town office Terry Redfield, Neil Russell, Carl Haynes at 7:10pm

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** via Zoom - Sarah Grimm - Auditor, at the town office; Bill Reed - Road Commissioner/Road Foreman

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** via Zoom - Peter and Aileen Stevenson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Terry Redfield called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 5/14/2020 Regular; 5/21/2020 Special

Neil moved to approve the minutes of 5/14/2020 regular meeting and 5/21/2020 special meeting as presented, Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE:** No report this week from Herb. There was a brief discussion on local protocols and statewide rule changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS:** none

**TOWN OFFICERS:** none

### **TOWN HIGHWAY:**

#### **Road Commissioner Report:**

- Working on getting information on new trucks to Patty
- Brent has been using up some comp time recently as they've been cutting back on work because of the dry conditions.
- Big bill for gravel in this week's orders. Gravel is for work done to repair flood damage from last spring. We are over budget on that line item but wanted to note that we did get reimbursed for the FEMA work.
- Working on Coy Hill Road project that is going along fairly well, Heather says that they are doing a beautiful job.
- Spruce Knob Road leftover ditching material piles were trucked by Jim Mars who will be re-using the material, so we did not have to pay to have the material moved.
- Bill needs to get some calcium for the roads to have on hand for the dry conditions.
- Spruce knob grant project extended to the end of September, Bill is waiting for official word that the grant will still be valid before he starts that project.

Some discussion on what Bill's been looking at for trucks - brand wise and what model year - also some talk about how difficult it is to get details from dealers right now because you can't go to the dealerships, so there's a lot of phone tag and emailing. There was also a brief discussion on general budgeting practices for equipment.

**TOWN LANDS:** Peter received a quote from Green Mountain Water Treatment for the treatment system needed for the well at the corner property. Quote was \$1800 for the equipment. Peter is going to investigate further to make sure this system is actually the correct application for our particular needs.

Peter also had a phone conversation with Frank Parent about the possibility of going with a mound system for the corner project. Regulations have changed - Frank is sending new updated drawings to Peter with more recent information. More to come at the special meeting next week once Peter has a chance to look at the new info. Frank will be invoicing the town, Peter will review invoices to verify the work that was done.

Board to confirm that the current well permit has been filed in the land records - Heather will take that task on.

Brief talk about town garage plans that Bill gave to Peter to review.

Question came up as to the possibility of the town buying the Historical Society Bldg back from the Historical Society and taking over the building from them to use as a town office. Neil will reach out to Historical Society president.

Next special facilities meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7pm.

#### **SOLID WASTE:**

- Green Up Day - Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - this Saturday - Conservation Commission is heading up the efforts.
- Big Dumpster Day - Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - Terry will make a Front Porch Forum posting on guidelines for paying - checks or exact change please - everyone needs to wear a mask. Richie Miller is willing to work that day.
- Neil will make a plywood sign for the site with expectations.
- Patty will make posters to go at Vicki's, Dump, Town Office, Post Office.
- Does the site need brush hogging? Terry will check and make it happen if there is a need.
- Brief discussion on West Street property and taking down the building. Bill is looking into necessary testing and next steps to begin that process.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **VLCT VERB** - Dental Plan info for 2021
- **VT Dept of Health** - Town copy of Health Officer Certificate

**BOARD ORDERS:** Neil moved to approve the board orders as presented, Carl 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. Ayes - Carl Haynes, Neil Russell, Terry Redfield. Abstain - Heather Grier, Patty Kenyon due to our physical absence in order to sign the warrants, both have reviewed prior to the meeting.

**LEGAL:** Brief discussion on property tax appeal to the state and if we had any info on that. We do not, will check with Sally to get an update before the next meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Property Line Review Update** - Heather looked at the property and the deeds - needs a little bit more work to come to a decision. Would like to take another board member or two to go to look at the property again and then review the maps in the records at the town office. Terry and Neil are willing and able to help. Heather prefers doing this on a Saturday - time set up for 9:30am this Saturday.
- **Financials** - Brief discussion of financials and the plan to review at the end of this month. Would like to look over year-end projections for closing out the 2020 fiscal year.
- **Ongoing issue** - Middletown Springs First Response - as of June 30, 2020 will be removed from Poultney Rescue Squad's insurance. Carl read a letter from PRS to MSFR that includes the return of property being used by MSFR owned by PRS and general insurance and fiscal sponsorship. MSFR working on logistics and details of separation. Carl would like the Selectboard to authorize the MSFR to open a checking account using the Town's EIN and not require the Treasurer be a signatory on the account in order for the service to continue under the fiscal sponsorship of the town. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Town can lawfully allow the MSFR to continue to operate separately from the town while using the Town's EIN as their legal fiscal agent for banking and insurance purposes. The board needs to determine what the banking laws are in regard to this in order to outline the options, roles, and expectations for moving forward.

There was also some discussion about the future of EMS services in rural areas and ideas on ways to keep local rescue squads viable in small rural communities.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Carl moved the board enter into executive session at 9:10pm to discuss property issues, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit executive session at 9:20pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil. All in favor, motion carried.

Upon exiting, the board requested that Carl research options relative to the septic system on the corner property.

**ADJOURN:** Carl moved to adjourn at 9:22pm, Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Kenyon, Clerk