

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • August 27, 2020

BOARD PRESENT: Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier via Zoom. At the town office, Terry Redfield, Neil Russell, Buddy Russell SB Therapy Dog, Carl Haynes.

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. At the town office; John Packhem.

CALL TO ORDER: Terry Redfield called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 8/13/2020 Regular; 8/20/2020 Special Facilities

Neil moved to approve the minutes of 8/13/2020 regular and 8/20/2020 facilities meetings as presented, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: (if any) - There are cloth masks at the town office for distribution throughout town. Herb is looking for ideas on the most effective way to distribute them. Ideas suggested were Vicki's, Library, Post Office, School, Churches. FPF post? Patty will talk to Herb about setting up a system to get them distributed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: - John Packhem - 402 Sawmill Hill Road in Middletown Springs - he's trying to get VTel fiber optic cable run to his house and he's been told by VTel that he needs to have his E911 address - he's not sure what that is and how to find it. The board wasn't exactly sure because of where the property is located and because that address is not listed on his property tax bill. Checking in with the Poultney Town Office (where most of his property is located) or the Wells Town Office (Where his physical mailing address is) might help him determine that. If he has trouble finding it, Bill suggested contacting Judy Paton at VTel to see if she might know and Heather agreed to help out with any difficulties since she works with town officials in many local towns and may be able to help him get that information.

TOWN OFFICERS:

Schedule BCA Meeting - November election preparations - BCA Meeting to plan and prepare for the November election scheduled for Thursday, September 17, at 7pm. Heather will offer to help Laura get the post cards out to BCA members.

Terry reported that there was an emergency BCA meeting held on the Monday after the election. There was the potential for a recount on the Progressive Ballot, we had one ballot cast in that party with a write in for the possible contested race and Terry was asked if the town could determine who that write-in was. Terry agreed to call in some members and open the ballot bag. After the fact, the group learned that they had just violated election law by opening the bags after the election without a court order. The Secretary of State's office was contacted and informed about what had

taken place. The Secretary's office acknowledged that protocol was not followed, but that they were not overly concerned about this violation.

In the process of opening up the ballot bags it was discovered that neither had the required tabulator tapes inside the bag, that oversight was corrected and the tapes were sealed in the bags, noting all interactions with the bags on the seal tag.

Minutes were taken at that meeting for the record. Terry will forward those minutes to Patty so that she can post them online as required.

On Tuesday, August 25 Delores Lubke, Chair of the Pawlet Republican Party sent a letter to the Secretary of State requesting an investigation into the incident. There has been no response as of yet from the Secretary of State's Office on that request.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers - Sarah reported that the Auditors met last night and would like to formally request that the Selectboard craft a note to town residents with an update about the current situation with the Middletown Springs First Response. The board is continuing to work on the issue and will be discussing the current details later in the meeting.

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report:

- We're past due on our fee for MRGP Stormwater Municipal Roads program. Bill is working with Devin Neary at RRPC to get this taken care of ASAP so that our grant reimbursements will not be affected.
- Fuel tank in the garage has been red tagged. Bill would like to get this taken care of soon, so we don't have an issue getting fuel once the cold weather hits. Terry talked to Dan McKeen who is willing to split the cost of the new tank and installation 50/50.
 - Neil moved to split the cost of new fuel tank and installation with the landlord at the town garage, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Neil will do some research on tanks and pricing to make sure we get the best price and equipment for our needs.

- All trucks have been undercoated, decals are on the new one ton, radio installation on the new truck happening on Monday.
- Had an issue with brakes on the grader, got that fixed and back in service.
- Spruce Knob project is under way and in process. Terry will be Brent's contact while Bill takes some vacation time.
- Lots of clean up from the pop-up thunderstorms.
- James P. Mars, Jr. will be filling out paperwork to be a fill in/on call person to help us out in times of need.
- Bill found a tree guy to do the chipping on the Spruce Knob project - Lakes Region Tree Care - Chris Bunker, his price is better than anyone else he's talked to and he seems reliable and legit.
 - Patty moved to hire Lakes Region Tree Care for \$700 per day or \$150 an hour for less than a full day to do chipping work on the Spruce Knob

Project. Heather, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Bill will let him know and ask him to get his paperwork to Jenny.

- Bill purchased a 100-gallon transfer fuel tank and pump and has set up the trailer with this equipment and extra tools for the late season road projects as a way to save time and money.

TOWN LANDS: Facilities: *Storage Tank, yes; Basement, no; 2300 +/- Sq. ft. footprint. Vault no less than 18 x 20; E/W orientation; "Open" floor plan concept with "walled" individual offices. Progress!*

Discussion about the process and how we might get to where we want to be. Feeling that we are getting pretty close at this point. There are at least two more designs coming from Peter & Aileen, Ron Masleh, and Michael.

Question arose - Are we looking at something that we can be successful with and get the voters to support when we are ready to put something on the ballot?

Discussion about looking again at properties that are on the market as possibilities. Some agree with the idea of looking at properties because of the market and costs of materials. Some are more confident that we are making progress with the direction we are going.

Heather moved that we simultaneously look at available properties in town that might work for our needs. Neil 2nd. Ayes - Heather. Opposed - Patty, Neil, Carl, Terry.

The majority felt that actively adding this to their list of duties in the midst of working on finalizing a plan for the corner would add another layer of work that we couldn't take on with any real effectiveness but, if something came along that made sense and could fit our needs they would be more than willing to look at it and consider it.

Update from Fire Association - George Gonda sent an email this afternoon stating that the Fire Association Trustees agree the Engineering study quotes so far are too expensive. They will continue to look at alternative, less expensive evaluations of the building and will hopefully have more information by next month.

SOLID WASTE: *To compost or not to compost*

Terry reported on his research on composting. It turns out that we could have a local chicken farmer take scraps, pig farmers cannot take meat. Terry also did some research on compost haulers and there are very few that do this in our area. He has gotten one quote so far for an every other week pickup, others have not yet responded.

Neil will research a couple farmers in town to see if they are willing to do pickup for chicken feed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- NEMRC - software licenses and invoice - contract needs to be signed by SB chair - total invoice \$5000.
 - Patty moved to approve and sign the NEMRC 2020/2021 municipal software contract for \$5000. Heather, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- VT Dept of taxes notice of incomplete info on withholding tax reporting - should go to Jenny.
- VT Enhanced 911 Board - looking for an update to EMS Qtrly reporting - should go to Herb - Patty to let Herb know it's at the town office in Selectboard correspondence folder.
- Letter from DOT Compliance Group - Junk? - yes, junk according to a quick google search.
- Letter from VT State Police - requesting input from communities on community policing and training.
- Big Dump Day - claim - Terry has contacted our insurance company again and hasn't heard back.

BOARD ORDERS: NOTE - one item for Marcell oil was in with invoices but not paid as an order - needs to go back to Jenny to get paid next round.

Carl moved to approve board orders as presented, Neil 2nd. Ayes - Terry, Neil, Carl
Abstain - Patty, Heather (not physically present at the meeting).

Note to ask Jenny to send JCB payment by priority mail to make sure it gets there by September 1.

LEGAL: *MSFR documentation materials to Gary K*

Patty sent information to Gary Kupferer to ask for clear direction and get legal advice on a specified number of questions regarding adding the MSFR as a new town agency. We are waiting to hear back from Gary with his advice.

Patty will put together a piece for FPF to explain what is going on with this situation at present.

OTHER BUSINESS: *Gold headed cane presentation -*

Oldest person in town is Wilma Washburn, she will be 96 on September 11. Would like to do a ceremony to award the cane on or near her birthday.

The meeting got kicked off of Zoom at 10:37pm.

Reconnected by phone: Terry moved to award the Gold-headed Cane to Wilma Washburn, Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary)

ADJOURN: Patty moved to adjourn at 10:40pm, Terry 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Kenyon, Clerk