

## **Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • October 22, 2020**

**BOARD PRESENT:** via Zoom; Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier, Terry Redfield. At the town office, Neil Russell, Carl Haynes.

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** via Zoom; Sarah Grimm - Auditor. At the town office; Laura Castle - Town Clerk, Bill Reed - Road Foreman/Road Commissioner. (left at 7:58pm)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Via Zoom: David Wright, Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Pat & Don Hemenway. At the town office; Ron Masleh.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Carl called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 10/08/2020 Regular

Neil moved to approve the minutes of the 10/08/2020 regular meeting as presented, Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE:** (if any) - Herb Childress - EMD - nothing from Herb this week.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS:** (if any) - Don H reported that the Fire Department's grant writer is confident she can get them a grant to cover the most of the cost of a new building. In order to write the grant and to move forward the Fire Department will need to own the land that the new building would occupy.

The board asked the Fire Association to come back to them with a proposal in writing for the amount of land they would need as well as more information about the specific grant that would be applied for.

There was a question about whether or not the land, as it is now, would meet the state requirements to be subdivided.

There was also a question about the transfer station and what a new fire house would mean for it. The short answer was that the transfer station would need to be moved.

The board asked about the grant deadline, which Don wasn't sure of. So that question would need to be part of the future discussions.

There was a brief discussion about the rules for towns "disposing" of property. The regulations state that the decision to "dispose" of the land can be made by the Selectboard but would need to be posted in 3 places in town and would be subject to a petition by town voters, within 30 days of any decision, asking to put the proposal up to a town wide vote.

Don will approach the Fire Association with our questions and try to provide answers at

our next meeting if not before.

In addition, the Fire Association has hired an architectural firm to do an assessment of the current building, looking at the options for rehab, renovations, and new construction. Karen Castle was supposed to join the meeting to give more details but was unable to make it. Don assumes that the Fire Association will want to use the funds set aside with the town for Fire Department facilities work.

#### **TOWN OFFICERS:**

**BCA Report - November Election Prep** - There was a brief discussion/update on the processes so far and a question about the number of absentee ballots received so far. Heather reported that we've process over 200 absentee ballots so far and anticipate many more being received prior to election day.

It was also reported that the Tabulator and Accessible Voting Machine were set up and tested on Tuesday, so everything is in order for the election.

Next BCA meeting is scheduled for October 29 at 7pm and will focus on last minute prep and election worker training.

**Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers** - none

#### **TOWN HIGHWAY:**

**Road Commissioner Report** - Bill reported the following:

- Spruce Knob project headwalls poured this week, project continuing to move along.
- There have been a rash Street signs coming up missing and/or damaged. So far Bill knows about missing or damaged signs on Haley Rd, Dudley Rd, Pleasant View, Park Ave, Fitzgerald, and the 4 corners. These were all new signs recently installed under new state sign guidelines. Missing road signs are an issue for EMS, delivery drivers and the like. Bill will work on assembling an accurate inventory so that we can put a plan in place to replace them as soon as possible. This could turn into a costly project.
- The crew is working on grading roads in between projects.

#### **Other Town Highway -**

Terry would like to get Park Ave and Pleasant View Avenue fixed up and in more passable shape before we get too much further into the winter season.

Neil asked about winter sand. He relayed some information he received about our regular sand supplier and he expressed concern that we might not be getting the best deal and that we could be getting substandard materials. Bill tried to assure Neil and the board that he was confident in the product we have received in the past from the supplier and was not ready to switch sand suppliers altogether. He has ordered some sand from a local supplier, who is less expensive, to test out on the roads this winter and would be open to looking at that down the road if the sand worked for us. The discussion escalated and became unproductive. Bill left the meeting and no further

discussion was had on highway.

#### **TOWN LANDS:**

**Feasibility Study of Historical Society Building** - There was a brief discussion about the feasibility study proposal by Geoff Metcalfe. Some board members had not had a chance to review the study and the notes from the last meeting with Geoff, so there was no action taken on the proposal on the table.

**Corner Property New Building Design Preferences** - no new information to add to the mix.

**SOLID WASTE: HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) 2021 Schedule** - Terry reported that the 2021 HHW schedule has been set. The details will appear in the next town newsletter and the town report so folks can mark their calendars. Terry will post this information at the transfer station as well.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- VLCT PACIF Postcards
- Champlain Valley Equipment Flyer
- American Red Cross FY21/22 Funding Request & Report- \$250
- RSVP & The Volunteer Center FY21/22 Funding Request & Report - \$200
- ARC FY21/22 Funding Request & Report - \$500
- Vermont Family Network FY21/22 Funding Request & Report - \$250

#### **BOARD ORDERS:**

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

Terry will go to the town office and sign the orders in the morning, so they are all set for Jenny.

**LEGAL:** Terry will email the town attorney regarding the new options the Fire Department brought to the table tonight.

**OTHER BUSINESS: MSFR Organization Status** - Nothing still from Kevin. Neil got some application forms from the insurance agent (Jill @ Hull Maynard Insurance), but she had a hard time finding anyone who was willing to give a quote. Neil forwarded those forms to Kevin so he can get them filled out and back to Jill to receive a quote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary)** Neil moved to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:25pm. Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit Executive Session at 9:37pm, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Neil moved the board review the past two years of Highway overtime to get a sense of the average OT per week, per year, and summer vs winter to assess current staffing levels. Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty agreed to assemble the information for presentation shortly after the November 3 election.

**ADJOURN:** Heather moved to adjourn at 9:39pm, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Kenyon, Clerk