

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Unapproved Minutes Regular Meeting • November 12, 2020

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom; Sarah Grimm - Auditor. At the town office; Laura Castle - Town Clerk, Bill Reed - Road Commissioner

PUBLIC PRESENT: Via Zoom: Peter & Aileen Stevenson. At the town office; Ron Masleh. Art Castle, George Gonda, Don Hemenway.

CALL TO ORDER: Terry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 10/22/2020 Regular & 11/5/2020 Special

Neil moved to approve the minutes of the 10/22/2020 regular meeting & 11/5/2020 special meeting as presented, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: - Terry updated on the current state of the pandemic. Cases are climbing. Everyone be careful out there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: (if any) - George, Art, & Don came to report on the Fire Association facilities progress. The Association has engaged Centerline Architects and Planning to do a full construction assessment. The cost of the contract is \$4,000 which would come out of the town's reserve fund for firehouse construction. They expect to have the assessment completed and report received by the first of February 2021. They are simultaneously exploring grants and loans for future construction. The next FEMA grant cycle is next spring, so they are laying the groundwork for that cycle.

In the meantime, the association would like to concentrate on evaluating and reaching a conclusion with the Selectboard regarding the lease on the town's property vs transfer of ownership of the property to the Fire Association. Also, on the table is the possibility of dissolving the Fire Association and moving to a municipal volunteer fire department. All of these options carry large lists of impacts for each entity which will need to be explored and investigated in much greater detail. The Fire Association would like a few minutes at the next meeting (Tuesday, November 24) to establish a detailed list of our options and their projected impacts. This information will serve as a guide as we move toward a final determination. As we move ahead, it may make sense to have a dedicated meeting with each entity's attorneys and consultants to help us come to the best decision for the community.

TOWN OFFICERS:

BCA Report - Election Results & 2020 Town Meeting Checklist Prep - BCA met on Tuesday to review the checklist to get it up to speed for Town Meeting 2021. Terry thanked Patty & Heather for putting in the extra time doing data entry and ballot processing taking the burden off Laura so she could continue to do the

day to day work without getting behind.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers - nothing specific

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report - Bill reported the following:

- Spruce Knob project update: Pretty much finished up with Spruce Knob project.
- Winter sand being delivered from McLellan - Sand looks exceptional to Bill, but we can get more crushed stone to mix in if we need it.
- Bobby has been cleaning leaves out of ditches and culverts to avoid clogging as we move into winter and spring.
- Bill asks that the board send out a reminder of the importance of using the service request form and not approaching workers in the roadway, which puts workers at risk.
- Bill and Brent have been working on budget preparation. Brent is also helping with the recordkeeping for maintenance.
- Bill has emailed Devin Neary (RRPC) to schedule the culvert inventory. Also working with Barbara (RRPC) on potential grant projects for next FY.
- Sure pack has been put down on Pleasant View and Park Avenue and so far seems to be working okay.
- Road Grader Tires - Price quotes, status - There's been no cheaper pricing found other than online private sale options that are cheap but carry no installation or warranties. Brent skeptical about whether or not the current tires will make it through the winter. At this time board is willing to gamble that we can make it through this winter with the tires we have and plan for new tires in the next FY when we can budget for them appropriately.

Other Town Highway - Bill brought up the item in our previous minutes about doing a time analysis on highway work. There was a brief discussion of the intent of this analysis and how we look at planning for the future.

TOWN LANDS:

Feasibility Study of Historical Society Building - There was some discussion about recent concerns regarding building codes and what our next steps should be. Topics ranged from establishing building ownership, to beginning phase 1 of the feasibility study, to consideration of another potential building in town as a viable site.

Opinions on the best next steps differed, with some not wanting to invest in a building the town doesn't own. Others thought that that investment (Phase 1 of the feasibility study) was essential to being able to make an informed decision on whether it was worth investing the time and energy into further negotiations with the Historical Society.

Terry moved to sign contract with Keefe & Wesner Architects to do the phase 1 feasibility study not to exceed \$3500, Patty, 2nd. Ayes - Heather, Patty, Terry. Opposed - Neil. Motion carried.

Terry will sign and return the contract for Phase 1 of the study with Keefe & Wesner Architects.

Corner Property New Building Design Preferences - Peter is working on a proposal for heating system for a new build with more accurate pricing.

There was discussion about the best ways to move this option forward while also moving forward on the other options.

The conclusion was to schedule a facilities meeting for next Thursday, November 19 at 7pm. At that meeting we need to be ready to pick a design to move forward with so we can engage a professional estimator.

SOLID WASTE: Terry reported that the new compost company seems to be working out.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email from VLCT - Insurance Renewal Forms to be filled out and signed
 - Patty to have Terry fill and VLCT/PACIF Insurance renewal. Neil, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- Check from Dan McKeen for ½ of the oil tank replacement \$600 - Jenny needs confirmation that the amount is correct. Yes, it is correct.
- Brunntag Lubricants - credit app - needs to be signed and sent in. Terry will sign and send.
- W4 - for Neil & Heather from Jenny
- W9 - for Music Mountain Compost needs to get sent
- Certificate of Insurance - Keyser Energy
- Casella Recycling Invoice - goes to Jenny
- Music Mountain Compost Invoice - goes to Jenny
- Champlain Valley Equipment flyer
- VLCT Invoice for insurance claim deductible - goes to Jenny
- Marcell Oil Fuel Tank invoice - Jenny has this on tonight's board orders
- RRPC Invoice for yearly dues - goes to Jenny
- Community Care Network - Town Meeting request & Report \$867
- Big Heavy World - Town Meeting request & Report - \$250
- VT Association for the Blind - Town Meeting request & report - \$300
- Junk mail addressed to Jim Caddell at our PO Box - trash

BOARD ORDERS:

Terry moved to pay a stipend of \$250 each to Patty and Heather for their work on the election. Neil, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Neil moved to approve board orders as presented, Terry 2nd. Ayes - Neil, Terry, Heather

(to sign in the am) Abstain - Patty (not physically present at the meeting). Motion carried.

Terry will leave copies of Fire Association contract with Centerline Architects and Planning for board members to review.

LEGAL: none

OTHER BUSINESS: MSFR Organization Status - Kevin Eaton emailed Patty that he hasn't had a chance to work on getting insurance prices yet. He will let us know when he is able to get any information.

Terry brought up the files and requests emailed to us by the Delinquent Tax Collector. He wanted to make sure board members had time to review the new policy and Deb's plans to move forward on collection efforts and engaging a law firm to begin the process for tax sales. Members should review and be ready to address these items at the next meeting.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday, November 24, 7pm - Thanksgiving week schedule.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) none

ADJOURN: Neil moved to adjourn at 9:46pm, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Kenyon, Clerk