

## **Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • November 24, 2020**

**BOARD PRESENT:** via Zoom; Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier. At the town office, Terry Redfield, Neil Russell, Carl Haynes at 7:15pm.

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** via Zoom; Sarah Grimm - Auditor, Deb House - Delinquent Tax Collector at 8:25pm. At the town office; Laura Castle - Town Clerk, Bill Reed - Road Commissioner.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 11/12/2020 Regular & 11/19/2020 Special

Neil moved to approve the minutes of the 11/12/2020 regular meeting & 11/19/2020 special meeting as presented, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE:** - No new news.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS:** - George Gonda & Art Castle - Fire Department Lease discussion and talking points

- If the board did decide to give up the land, the town would need access to the town sand pile and the transfer station until we could get a place to move to and create facilities.
- Another option is to keep the land and take on the Fire Department as a municipal Fire Department.
- Municipal Fire Department would be cumbersome for a small town and Selectboard to manage.
- Suggestion to get a few people together to talk about the options - 2 representatives from each group seems manageable. The group would put together a comprehensive list of all of the options available. Carl and Heather volunteered to represent the SB and George and Art volunteered for the Fire Association. They'll set up a meeting to begin the preliminary work.

### **TOWN OFFICERS:**

**BCA Report - 2021 Town Meeting - Checklist Preparations** - No news from the state yet on how that might work.

**Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers** - Laura has been doing lots of property transfers lately.

### **TOWN HIGHWAY:**

### **Road Commissioner Report -**

- Time clock - needs to be repaired or replaced. Patty will work on purchasing a new one to replace it.
- Estimate from Glen for vacuuming leaves on Schoolhouse Road. \$70
- Spruce Knob project is done. Bill is working on submitting the grant paperwork.
- Patty & Bill will be meeting with Devin Neary from RRPC on November 30.
- Devin will also talk to us about grants available for the next season
- Devin advised Bill that we need to pay the Stormwater Permit asap - so we need to locate that paperwork and get it to Jenny. Patty will see if she has a copy of it and forward that to Bill.

### **TOWN LANDS:**

Peter spoke with Geoff Metcalfe about the Historical Society study and the new building as we asked last week. Geoff will be starting the code review soon on the Historical Society. On the corner building, he will put a proposal together for us within a week or so.

Neil suggested that we might want to look at concrete block construction as an option due to the skyrocketing costs for conventional framing and siding materials. It could be an option for saving some money. Peter suggests that this is something we could talk to the architect about once we have a chance to meet with him after we've gotten the initial proposal and made a decision on that.

**SOLID WASTE:** - Big dump day cost us just of \$2000 in trucking and disposal fees, something to be aware of at budgeting time.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- VLCT Memo on Unemployment Insurance - Increase of 29.3% for 2021 due to the pandemic.

### **BOARD ORDERS:**

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

**LEGAL:** none

**OTHER BUSINESS: MSFR Organization Status** - no updates

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) Delinquent Tax Discussion and Tax Sale Preparations**

Terry moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25pm inviting the Delinquent Tax Collector, Deb House to join us. Patty 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit Executive Session at 9:51pm. Patty 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to authorize the Delinquent Tax Collector to engage with Attorney Kevin O'Toole to begin Tax Sale proceedings on four properties in town as discussed. Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

Neil moved to affirm that the Selectboard will bid the minimum bid on any property being sold for taxes when there is no other bidder offering the minimum. Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes - Terry, Neil, Heather, Patty. Opposed - Carl. Motion Carried.

The board reviewed the new Delinquent Tax Collector's Policy. A final version of the policy will be provided by the Delinquent Tax Collector so it can be added to the policy book and posted to the town website.

**ADJOURN:** Neil moved to adjourn at 9:58pm, Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 9:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Kenyon, Clerk