

# middle TOWN NEWS letter

## TOWN MEETING 2021 – Special Edition #1

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### TOWN MEETING during a PANDEMIC

The Board of Civil Authority is already hard at work preparing for Town Meeting. As with prior elections in August and November, there will need to be some adaptations made to maximize voter and election officials safety on account of COVID-19. These Special Election Editions of the middleTOWN NEWSletter will help you keep informed.

In this issue:

- List of Town Officers and committee seats up for re-election.
- Preliminary info about the Informational Meeting to be held on Monday, March 1.
- Info on Absentee Ballots and Early Voting.
- How to register to vote

### Is it YOUR TURN?

Nobody can talk you into serving in local office, but there may come a time (like right now) when somebody asks you if you'll serve. "Will you serve?"

Middletown Springs needs you! Did you know it takes some 40 People to manage the various aspects of our town? When more of us get involved, we create a more active, vibrant, and diverse community.

You can make a difference. Your perspective is valuable. It's your chance to add your voice. While different in size, all of these positions are important.

More information about which positions are up for re-election is on the next page.

### VIRTUAL Town Informational Meeting

Scheduled for 6:30 pm, Monday, March 1, the Town Meeting Informational Meeting will be held virtually this year on Zoom. Guidance from the Secretary of State's office, as well as Vermont League of Cities and Towns, indicates this is the best way to hold our Information Meeting in order to safely allow everyone to participate.

Details will follow about how the meeting will run, and how to join and participate in the meeting by computer, tablet, smartphone, or landline.

### VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

The Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 2, at the Historical Society building, from 7 am-7 pm. Masks, social distancing, and the other COVID-safety protocols used in the last two elections will be in place. As always, Early and Absentee Voting will be available. Unlike in the general election, (as of this printing) ballots will not automatically be mailed to all registered voters.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots must be requested. Go to [My Voter Page \(https://mvp.vermont.gov/\)](https://mvp.vermont.gov/) on the Vermont Secretary of State's webpage to log in and request an absentee ballot be sent directly to you. If you cannot access My Voter Page, reach out to Patty Kenyon ([pmh-kenyon@vermontel.net](mailto:pmh-kenyon@vermontel.net)) or Heather Grier ([hgselect-board@gmail.com](mailto:hgselect-board@gmail.com)) for technical support.

### REGISTER TO VOTE

To register to vote in Vermont for the first time go to <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>. Register online by Friday, February 26 to make sure your name appears on the Town checklist. Online registration is preferred. To register in person, make an appointment to go into the Town Office or stop at the Library during open hours.

You must be a registered voter of Middletown Springs to vote at Town Meeting. To double check that you are go to [My Voter Page](https://mvp.vermont.gov/). There is no deadline to register to vote! You may register to vote up to and including the day of the election.

### WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

As it becomes available, additional information about Town Meeting will be distributed via:

- Special Edition Newsletters (virtual & print)
- [Front Porch Forum](#)
- [Town Website](#)

[Sign Up](#) receive the latest posts to the Town Website direct to your email inbox. Sign up form is also available on the website, lower left sidebar.

## Middletown Springs Community Members, now is the time to run to serve your Town as an elected officer!

Town Meeting election of officers is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021. There are a number of officers that will be elected. The **deadline to file to run** for Town Office is **Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5pm**. This Year candidates are not required to file a petition with signatures in order to have the person's name placed on the ballot as a candidate for local election. But, the candidate **MUST FILE** a *Consent of Candidate* form no later than 5pm on 1/25 with the Town Clerk.

You may pick up a Consent of Candidate form from the Town Clerk or download it at <https://sos.vermont.gov/media/e3pkphur/local-candidate-consent-pdf.pdf> Go to: [middletownsprings.vt.gov/](http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/) or [sos.vermont.gov](http://sos.vermont.gov) for more information.

### Middletown Springs Town Officers - Positions Open for Election 2021\*

Elected Office	Incumbent	Term Length
Town Clerk	Laura Ann Castle	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Jenny Talke Munyak	3 Years
Selectboard Member	Terry Redfield	2 Years
Selectboard Member	Carl Haynes	3 Years
Road Commissioner	Bill Reed	3 Years
Delinquent Tax Collector	Debra House	3 Years
Town Moderator	Kimberly Bushnell	1 Year
Lister	Sally Achey	3 Years
Town Auditor	Sarah Grimm	3 Years
Planning Commission	Vacant (Peter Blekis resigned) Vacant Vacant	3 Years 3 Years (1 Year remaining) 3 Years (2 Years remaining)
Library Trustee	Kristal Haynes Hier Kelley Beckwith Vacant	3 Years 3 Years (2 Years remaining) 3 Years
First Constable	Vacant	
Trustee Copeland Church Fund	Dan McKeen	1 Year
Trustees Copeland Cemetery Fund	Alice Hoisington	3 Years
Trustees of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies	Alice Hoisington Vacant	3 Years 3 Years (2 Years remaining)

\* **The Incumbent may or may not be running for re-election**