

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Unapproved Minutes Regular Meeting • January 28, 2021

BOARD PRESENT: via Zoom; Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier. At the town office; Terry Redfield, Carl Haynes, Neil Russell, Buddy Russell (SB therapy dog).

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1/12/2021 & 1/21/2021 Special & 1/14/2021 Regular

Neil moved to approve the minutes of the 1/12/2021 & 1/21/2021 special meeting and the 1/14/2021 regular meeting as presented, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS:

MSVFD/Fire Association Report - George Gonda - Art Castle - Kevin Eaton -
George reported that they received the final report from Centerline Architects & Russell Construction. He will send the board an electronic copy of the report once the fire association has had a chance to review it at a meeting.

The report was undertaken with restraints of keeping the current footprint of the land lease. Scope of the work is that the full building needs to be brought up to current codes. Basically, it would be a full rebuild within the lease footprint. The estimate came in at \$2.1M w/ \$1.8M for the building alone. This is on the same footprint and no building expansion. This option would require the salt and sand shed to be moved because they need the space for turning radius of the trucks.

Eventually they would like to explore pricing out a new building so that they can compare the options taking into consideration the ability to add space.

The hope is to get outside funding for this building. Grants and loans. Their gut feeling is that a new building could be cheaper than the full reno option.

The architect is willing to come meet with the board to answer questions. General feeling of the board is that we would like to see the two ideas, new build vs rebuild, side by side before we would want to delve into questions. After that, potentially we could want to meet.

The question was raised about the possibility of getting some outside support from

neighboring towns to cover some of the costs of housing and maintaining the ladder truck, as it's the only ladder truck in the immediate vicinity and it is used on many mutual aid calls. Fire Dept members felt that path was unlikely, but they will explore it to see if any other towns have similar agreements or have had to address that issue.

TOWN OFFICERS:

Jenny talked about the grant revenue line item in the budget with no corresponding dedicated expenses to offset that. The board explained that in their budget building process last year, those additional expenses were included in material and contract amounts.

Jenny explained that budgeting in that manner is not in compliance with general accounting standards. Since this is a new process and began as a result of the outside audit, the board was not fully aware of how to properly account for this. At this late date, it's not possible to change this budget, but the board will work with the treasurer next year to begin the process earlier, to use our FY2021 year end financials as a guide for estimating general highway expenses and grant expenses separately, then build the budget for FY2023 accordingly.

2021 Town Meeting Preparations - Preparation/Adoption of Town Meeting Warning -

There was a brief discussion about articles 5, 6, & 7 in which we are asking the voters to approve adding any surplus from the general fund and the highway fund into specified reserve accounts.

There was a question of whether or not we had included the amounts specifically dedicated to go to our facilities' reserve funds into the full budget or created separate line items for each fund for the town to vote on. The decision was made to keep those allocations in the budget and not vote on them separately.

Terry moved to approve the Town Meeting Warning as presented. Neil 2nd. Ayes - Terry, Neil, Patty, Heather. Opposed - Carl. Motion carried.

Patty & Heather will go in tomorrow morning and sign the warning. Patty will scan the doc in to send to Beth for the town report.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers -

Jenny raised some questions about the anonymous tax money put into her lock box for specific delinquent taxes. She questioned why someone would do that and explained that what seemed to be a nice gesture actually caused a good deal of extra work for the treasurer and delinquent tax collector. She appreciates the sentiment, but requests that in the future any such good intentions in relation to taxes be done only after having a conversation with the treasurer and

delinquent tax collector so as not to cause unnecessary time and frustration.

Sarah reported that she was not able to access the state's "My Voter Page" and would like some help figuring out why. Patty will do some research and try to help Sarah gain access.

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report -

- Brenntag Lubricants - needs new credit app. - Patty will work on getting it filled out and email to them.
- Bill is ordering signs for posting roads, not sure he'll be doing it but will be ready if we do.
- Bill received an application for grants from Dept of Homeland Security - leaving for members to look at to see if there might be something we can take advantage of.
- Bill discussed an email he received from PACIF re: 2016 Freightliner repair - it is not totaled and will be repaired. Cost to repair about \$29K He is currently trying to get some assurances/warrantees on the work to be done so we don't end up footing the bill if there are issues down the road with the repairs.
- Bill has signed up for an online Dig Safe account. If he has trouble using or accessing it he'll connect with Patty for some help.
- Bill also reported that there have been some complaints about people getting flat tires after the road is graded.

TOWN LANDS - There was a brief discussion about where we are at in terms of our contract agreement with Geoff Metcalfe. It's Terry's understanding that Geoff is waiting on us to give the go ahead before he begins work. Reviewed the December proposal from Geoff to be sure we are all on the same page.

Board agrees - let's tell him to move forward. Terry will call Geoff and let him know we are ready for him to start the design development.

SOLID WASTE: Terry sent the latest biennial report from ANR to each of us and gave a short review of the highlights.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dept of Motor Vehicles - Annual Report for Weight Limits - Due by February 10, 2021 - Per Bill this doesn't apply to us, so there's nothing for us to do.
- Dept of Environmental Conservation Storm Water Permit - good thru 1/26/2023
- Record of visit BC - work related injury. Needs to go in Brent's file.
- Request from Carrara's Rustproofing for us to complete their Hold Harmless Agreement and send back. Terry will sign and send back.
- Advertisement from Elan City for digital road signs.

BOARD ORDERS:

Carl moved to approve orders as presented. Neil, 2nd. Ayes: Terry, Carl, Neil. Abstain: Patty, Heather. Motion carried.

LEGAL: none

OTHER BUSINESS:

Position Statement discussion (attacks on democracy) - Statement presented by a resident asking the board to consider approval.

The Statement reads:

“We the democratically elected officials of the town of Middletown Springs stand with our state legislature in condemning the violent attacks on our nation's capital and our democracy. We trust that our community will work together to resist this violence and uphold the democracy that makes our nation great.”

Carl moved to table any action on the position statement at this time. Terry, 2nd. Aye - Carl. Opposed - Terry, Patty, Neil, Heather. Motion failed.

Heather moved to remain neutral and not adopt the position the statement. Neil 2nd. Aye - Heather, Neil. Oppose - Carl, Terry, Patty. Motion failed.

Terry moved to adopt the position statement condemning the violence at the nation's Capitol. Patty 2nd. Ayes - Patty, Terry. Oppose - Carl, Neil, Heather. Motion failed.

There was discussion about the appropriateness of making a declaration based on the request of one resident, the potential for the statement being seen as too political, that the incident was not pertinent to town business, and the attack being an unprecedented event that affects us all.

New Social Service Agency Requests

Terry moved to adopt the procedure requiring any first time appropriation requests from social service agencies (those that have not received prior voter approval) will need to present their request by a petition containing 5% of the legally registered voters of Middletown Springs in order to appear on future ballots. Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Carl suggests that we require every agency to petition every year to be on the ballot. The board decided to begin with new requests for now, and to do some more research to see if it made sense to make any further changes in the future.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

BCA Meeting - February 4, 2021 at 7pm (Patty to send email out to BCA Members)

Regular Meeting - February 11, 2021 at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) - None

ADJOURN: Neil moved to adjourn at 10:06pm, Terry 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 10:06pm.

The board then reconvened as the Liquor Control Board at 10:06 pm

**Liquor Control Board Meeting
1/29/2021**

Terry called the meeting to order at 10:06pm

Under consideration is the 2021 Liquor license renewal application from Grant's Village Store.

Patty moved to approve the 2021 liquor license renewal for Grant's Village Store. Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to adjourn the Liquor Control Board at 10:10pm. Neil 2nd. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Kenyon, Clerk