

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • March 11, 2021

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom: Sally Achey, Lister, Sarah Grimm - Auditor. At the town office; Bill Reed - Road Commissioner.

PUBLIC PRESENT: via Zoom: Art Castle - Fire Dept. At the town office: Carl Haynes at 7:20pm

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2/25/2021 Regular Meeting, 3/4/2021 Special Meeting

Robin moved to approve the minutes of the 3/4/2021 Special Meeting as presented, Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Heather moved to approve the minutes of 2/25/2021 Regular Meeting as presented, Neil 2nd. Ayes - Heather, Patty, Terry, Neil. Abstain - Robin. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: Art reported that the Fire Department is reviewing a questionnaire from Centerline Architects and once they have more information on next steps they will report back to the Selectboard.

Carl brought up an issue about political signs he placed in Glen's truck at Fort Dumpster. Patty explained two incidents on the Saturday and Monday prior to town meeting day stemming from complaints made by residents. The town's personnel policy prohibits campaigning by employees while on town property or at work.

TOWN OFFICERS:

2021 Town Meeting Recap - Appointments for 2021

Terry updated the board in regard to the question raised last meeting regarding the library trustee appointment of Kristal Haynes. She can continue to hold the office if she was left off the ballot after submitting a consent form, but we can also appoint her. Since we have already appointed her, the board will leave it at that and add the remaining years on the position to next year's town meeting ballot.

Appointments needed for 2021 are as follows.

- Fence Viewer
- Tree Warden
- Animal Control Officer - Neil Russell - appointed 3/4/2021

- Service Officer - optional appointment
- Emergency Management Director
- Rutland Regional Transportation Council
- Rep to Rutland Regional Planning Comm
- Rep to SWAC - Glen Moyer - Primary, Terry Redfield - Alternate: appointed 3/4/2021
- Conservation Commission - One seat vacant - Exp 2022
- Constable

Patty moved to appoint the following people to positions as listed below. Heather, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

- Fence Viewer - Full Selectboard
- Tree Warden - Terry Redfield
- Service Officer - Full Selectboard
- Emergency Management Director - Herb Childress
- Rutland Regional Transportation Council - Bill Reed

Terry will reach out to Hilary Solomon to see if she is willing to be the Rep to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Constable is currently vacant - the question arose on why we have Constable on our list of appointments when it was also on the ballot? Basically, because it's vacant we could appoint someone to this position, but since we have coverage by the Rutland County Sheriff, we have not had to seek out a local constable. Several towns have eliminated this position entirely. If we wanted to change the position from an elected to an appointed position, we would need to have a town vote.

Currently we have one position on the Conservation Commission vacant. We would need to find someone willing to serve who we could appoint.

The question was raised about write-in candidates for the open positions on the ballot. Patty reported that there were two positions with enough write-in votes. Those positions were Copeland Cemetery Fund and Trustee of Public Monies. The candidate with enough votes was John Weatherhogg. He has accepted both positions and has taken the oath of office.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Auditors / Listers -

- **Sally Achey – ‘No Appeals Pending’; Tax Maps status (CAI Technologies)** - Sally presented the Certificate of No Appeals or Suit Pending for 2019 and 2020. The certificate needs to be signed by the Selectboard and filed with the Grand List for the respective years.
 - Neil moved to approve the state's Certificate of No Appeals or Suit Pending for the 2019 and 2020 grand lists. Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Tax Maps** - Sally wants to get a quote for new tax maps. We have the option to also get an online version. She would like to quote each option separately. Once she has the pricing, she will share her recommendations for moving forward.

Heather shared her feedback on how she uses these maps in her work searching land records. If we are going to consider investing in online maps, we need to understand the cost vs benefit and what makes the most sense for our purposes.

There was a short discussion on the CLA and the impact recent sales might have on our numbers going forward. Sally will keep us up to date on any determination from the state on this past year's inflated sales.

- **New computer purchase/software updates - Patty** - Patty shared a quote she received from Vermont Digital to replace the two outdated computers in the office (Town Clerk's computer and the Listers computer) the price point is basically the same as 2018 when the treasurer upgraded her computer - \$750 per machine plus set up. The plan is to purchase additional users for Microsoft 365 under the treasurer's subscription.

Heather moved to approve the purchase of two computers (Listers/Town Clerk) as quoted by Vermont Digital, plus related software subscriptions. Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report –

- **ATG Repair Paperwork – 2016 Freightliner** - Bill forwarded the paperwork from ATG specifying the warranties on the parts used to repair the 2016 Freightliner. Parts are warranted for one year. The board needs to approve and sign the Insurance Direction to Pay in order to pick up the truck, it is ready and waiting for us.

Patty moved that the board approve and sign the Insurance Direction to Pay for the repairs on the 2016 Freightliner, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

- Bill would like to have the authorization to post roads as needed, if needed.

Robin moved to authorize Bill to post the class 3 roads as needed at his discretion, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

- Time to rent tractor for mowing sides of roads. \$3400 for Monday am thru Friday am rental.
 - Terry moved to have Bill contact HP Fairfield to reserve the tractor mowing machine for early to mid July, Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- Mud season is in full force at the moment, conditions changing by the hour. The crew is trying to stay up on things as best they can.

Other Town Highway - none.

TOWN LANDS - We have submitted our directives to the architect and are now waiting for information, questions, or next steps from Geoff. Terry has sent Robin the information as to where we are in the process so he can get himself up to speed.

SOLID WASTE: Recyclables are still in negative territory which means it currently costs us more to process recyclables than trash right now.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Grassroots Solar Flyer
 - Champlain Valley Equipment Flyer
 - ARC Newsletter
 - VLCT News
 - Letter from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
 - GMP Letter RE- Commercial / Industrial Customers
 - Letter from DOT Compliance Group – Junk?
 - Browns Quarried Slate Product/Price list
 - Camp Precast COI
 - Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating – Overweight permit w/Ck & COI
 - Keyser Energy – Overweight permit w/ck & COI
 - Cardinal Logistics – Overweight permit w/ ck & COI
 - Markowski Excavating – Overweight permit w/ck & COI
- Terry moved to approve overweight permits for Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating, Keyser Energy, Cardinal Logistics, and Markowski Excavating. Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

BOARD ORDERS:

Robin moved to approve board orders as presented, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried. (Electronic approval per COVID 19 protocols since there were only two members at the office.) Board members will stop in and sign if they have a minute.

LEGAL: Bill asked the Sheriff to make out an incident report regarding a tote full of packages that he came upon in the middle of the road. They had fallen out of the back of a UPS truck. Bill delivered the packages to the Wells post office where they were headed prior to the incident.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) - Discuss Personnel Issues

Terry moved to enter Executive Session at 9:03pm to discuss personnel issues. Heather, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit Executive Session at 9:35pm, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

No action taken.

ADJOURN: Patty moved to adjourn at 9:42pm, Neil 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk