

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • May 27, 2021

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom: Sarah Grimm - Auditor, Jenny Talke Munyak - Treasurer. At the town office: none

PUBLIC PRESENT: via Zoom: Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Art Castle - Fire Department. At the town office: Ron Masleh.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5/13/2021 Regular Meeting.

Robin moved to approve the minutes of 5/13/2021 regular meetings as presented, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Herb could not make tonight's meeting but sent a note about the Vaccine clinic being offered in Pawlet through the Rutland Free Clinic. It's scheduled for Friday, June 11 from 4pm to 7pm at the Pawlet Fire Station. Middletown residents are welcome to sign up.

ARPA Possibilities (American Rescue Plan) - Patty reviewed with the board what she learned about the ARPA monies at the VLCT webinar that was offered last week. The webinar was recorded and is available for others to view.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS - none.

TOWN OFFICERS: Year-end budget review - Jenny gave us an overview of the current budget status. Elections came in about \$4K higher than we budgeted this year.

Town budgets look good despite the election overage so we will probably be okay. Looks like the Highway budget is going to be close at year end. Hoping to be in decent shape at the end of the year. We will keep an eye on spending and spending decisions closely as the next few weeks unfold.

Board members had a couple of questions about coordinating orders for end of year payment, bills still to come in and the process around reserve funds.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers - nothing else.

Fraud Prevention Policy – Update & Discussion - An updated draft of the Fraud Policy was distributed with the minutes for board review. There was a brief discussion to confirm all edits were included in this draft.

Robin moved to adopt the Fraud Prevention Policy as presented. Heather, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty will print out the policy and make it available at the town office for signatures of the board and the treasurer.

Social Service Agency request policy revision - tabled.

Language revisions to Personnel Policy – Comp Time - tabled.

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report – Terry reported in Bill's absence:

- Crew has been ditching on Garron Rd this week.
- Bearings are shot in the sickle bar mower we purchased last year. Bill is investigating whether or not we can repair it affordably. He's also working on alternatives if the repair turns out to be too costly.
- Bill may use Chance Clark for weed whacking by the guardrails to supplement Bobby's work.

Other Town Highway - none.

TOWN LANDS -

Receipt and analysis of 'Design Development Estimate' – new Town Office - The board and planning group discussed the estimate in some detail. The building estimate came in at \$847,456.84 - this includes the high lumber prices we are experiencing right now. The total cost when you add in the engineering, architect fees, permits, building insurance, water treatment system, soil testing compacting, is still undetermined. Peter feels that Geoff would be able to give us a pretty good idea of what those costs might be in a typical project in order for us to plan moving forward.

Once we have those questions answered, it would be good to begin the publicity and public informational meetings process.

Expected next steps are to get a more complete pricing estimate from Geoff, have a working meeting to produce an outline for moving forward, start publicity, go to voters in fall, ready to build next summer as a rough timeline.

Terry will reach out to Geoff and get the answers to the unanswered questions around the cost of things not included in the building estimate.

We'll plan to set a new special meeting schedule at our next meeting to start the planning and processes for moving forward.

Discussion of Other Building Projects, such as MSVFD and MTS Library

MSVFD - Art reported that the Fire Dept needs the town to deed them the land in order to apply for a federal grant to fund the new firehouse. There was some discussion about whether or not the town could be the fiscal agent for the fire department so as not to hold up the funding opportunities waiting for the town and the Fire Association to iron out a deal on a land transfer. Similar situation was employed to build the playground at the school because the town owned a piece of the land the playground was to be constructed on.

MTS Library - Kimberly sent an email that the library did not meet last week so will plan to report back to us at our next regular meeting.

SOLID WASTE: Nothing this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- UNFI Overweight permit – w/ ck – no COI – Patty called and left them a message again today 5/27/21
- MSHS Newsletter
- Update from People's Bank on Cramton Fund

BOARD ORDERS:

Terry moved to approve board orders as amended removing the one contested bill for service from Countryside Lock, Patty 2nd. Aye - Patty, Heather, Robin, Terry. Abstain - Neil. 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: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ATV issues or concerns (Danby has scrapped ATV ordinance plans) - no discussion tonight except for a brief update on Danby dropping their pursuit of an ordinance.

Discussion of SelectBoard resolution of Diversity/Inclusivity - The board had a discussion about the impetus for proposing a board statement of inclusivity. Terry read his proposal as some members didn't have the original language available to them. There was a bit more discussion and a vote on adoption was tabled until the next meeting. Terry will send out the revised statement so that we all have the updated version to review between meetings and can be prepared to revisit at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, June 10 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – Discuss Personnel Issues

Terry moved to enter ES to discuss personnel at 9:31pm. Patty 2nd. All in favor motion carried.

Terry moved to exit ES at 9:41pm, Robin 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