

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Regular Meeting • June 10, 2021

BOARD PRESENT: via Zoom; Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman at 7:20pm. At the town office; Terry Redfield, Neil Russell, Buddy Russell (SB Therapy Dog).

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom: Sarah Grimm - Auditor, Jenny Talke Munyak - Treasurer, Kristal Hier - Library Trustee, Deb House - Delinquent Tax Collector @ 7:15pm. At the town office: Bill Reed - Road Commissioner/Road Foreman at 7:10pm

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 5/27/2021 Regular Meeting.

Terry moved to approve the minutes of 5/27/2021 regular meetings as presented, Neil 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Nothing from Herb this time.

ARPA Possibilities (American Rescue Plan) – Terry reported that the town has 30 days to formally request to receive funds from this program. Patty is happy to sign us up but needs to have our DUNS # in order to do so. Jenny will send that information to Patty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS - Kristal updated the board on the current plan to move forward. They will do the first step in the process which is to find out if the library can address the ADA requirements for building access without disrupting the current septic system. That first step will cost anywhere from one thousand to two thousand dollars. They will spend a portion of their nest egg for this and will come back to the board with the results and their desired next steps. They also reminded the board that they would like us to consider a dedicated library renovation fund during next year's budgeting process.

TOWN OFFICERS: Year-end budget review & July 1 updates- Jenny asked about new wages for July 1, 2021, she'll need that info from the board at the next meeting. She also reported where we were in terms of comp time accrued. We are currently within our policy guidelines so all is good.

Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers – Patty reported that she is going to call a BCA meeting to go over the voter checklist. She will send out an email beginning of next week to determine a date and time that works for the most people.

Deb House reported that so far the installment agreements are being paid as agreed.

She is looking forward to the June 15 tax deadline, then she'll begin sending letters to those who are behind and begin working to get those taxes before they accumulate. Many thanks to Deb for a job well done.

Social Service Agency request policy revision and Language revisions to Personnel Policy – Comp Time – tabled until the board meets in-person for collaborative discussions.

Accounting, Auditing, Financial Reporting Policy – review & discussion - Jenny weighed with her insights after reading the policy, Patty also had some comments and concerns about certain language. Jenny offered to pull the cogent points together and send a note to the auditors with our suggested edits and concerns after she has made it through the end of year processes. Auditors should remind us if they haven't heard back from us by mid-August.

TOWN HIGHWAY:

Road Commissioner Report –

- Roadside mowing started this week - 140, Norton, Dayton Hill Road, Pleasant View. What else should we do? Coy Hill, Orchard Road both need it. The board would like to get as much done as possible within our budget.
- Bill will be looking into finding a solution for Park Avenue hoping to do some work there if there's time and money this summer.
- Pleasant View Road needs some tree trimming at the end by 140.
- JCB backhoe is going to need a brake job soon.

Other Town Highway - none

TOWN LANDS -

Receipt and analysis of 'Design Development Estimate' – new Town Office –

Terry reported back with answers to our questions for Geoff on additional costs. Terry read off the list of charges which amount to about \$120K for all add-ons, without the insurance piece. Numbers are below for the record.

Costs not in the estimate:

Architecture & Engineering (including MEP & Structural): \$50,000

Civil Engineering: \$5-7,000

Fire Safety Permit: \$6,800 (.008 x project cost)

Water Treatment: \$5,000

Well Pump: \$2,500

Site contingency: 5% \$40,000

Building Insurance: Geoff did not have a number for this, advised that we check with our insurance carrier for that.

The board then talked about starting the process of dedicated building meetings again.

Do we want to wait for in-person (with the hope that restrictions will be lifted soon) or do we want to start now using Zoom? Board would prefer in person get together for working. Other expected participants agree that meeting in person meeting would be more productive. We will make our final plan on Thursday, June 24th hoping that by then we'll know for sure if restrictions are lifted.

Patty brought up an idea to try to get some better equipment in order to continue to offer Zoom participation that would work for folks to listen in or participate in meetings from home, if they are not able or comfortable coming out. Others agreed. Patty will look into pricing and what we might need to make that happen.

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

MTS Library - happened earlier under Public Comments.

MSVFD - doesn't have anything specific.

SOLID WASTE: MTS Share of spring HazMat collection - \$262.42

Canusa is paying for cardboard now (\$20 a ton.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Dot Reed RE: Animals & smells - Health Officer has been notified and will look into the situation and report back to us. Terry will check in with Carl to see if he's visited yet.

The board will reply to Dot with a letter to update her that the issue has been referred to Carl Haynes, the town's Health Officer, to determine if and what recourse there may be. We will continue to keep her in the loop once we know more. Patty will craft the letter and run it by Terry and get it in the mail asap.

- Form from Treasurer Auditors checklist – SB to sign off on it.

Patty moved to approve and sign the Internal Controls Checklist dated June 10, 2021, completed by the treasurer for the town auditors' files, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

BOARD ORDERS:

Terry moved to approve board orders as presented, Neil 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: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ATV issues or concerns (as time permits) -

Terry moved to table this until we have resumed in-person meetings, Neil 2nd. All in

favor, motion carried.

Discussion of SelectBoard resolution of Diversity/Inclusivity

Proposed statement: The Select Board of the town of Middletown Springs condemns racism and discrimination of any type, and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. We shall strive to ensure that Middletown Springs remains a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions openly.

Robin moved to adopt the proposed inclusion statement as presented, Terry 2nd. Ayes - Robin, Patty, Terry. Opposed - Heather, Neil. Motion Carried 3-2.

Heather moved to not adopt the motion as presented, Neil 2nd. Ayes - Neil, Heather. Opposed - Robin, Patty, Terry. Motion failed 2-3.

There was a lengthy discussion about the ideals for and against the initial motion during which the addition of the second motion not to adopt was added to the considerations on the table.

All board members felt that inclusion and diversity were important ideals to live by. The disagreement centered around whether or not creating an official statement was the purview of the Selectboard, as well as whether or not this statement at this time was necessary. Members voting in favor of the resolution believed it was the responsibility of the town leaders to reaffirm our commitment to welcoming everyone and that it was necessary to do that now. Members opposed believed it was not the responsibility of the board.

Consider resuming in-person meetings after July 1 - addressed above in the discussion on Town Lands.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, June 24 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – Discuss Personnel Issues - None

ADJOURN: Patty moved to adjourn at 10:00pm, Neil 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk