

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • June 23, 2022
Start time 7pm

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: Bill Reed – Road Commissioner/Highway Foreman, Sally Achey – Lister. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Jenny Talke Munyaik – Treasurer.

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: none. Via Zoom - Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Laura Derrendinger, Heather Thomas, Mary Cownie, Rick Beal – MSES Principal, Sue Horner.

CALL TO ORDER: Heather called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 9, 2022 Regular Meeting

Terry moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting as presented, Heather 2nd. Ayes – Heather, Terry, Neil, Patty. Abstain – Robin.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Herb Childress – Nothing tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: Rick Beal, Principal at MSES came to briefly speak about the outdoor classroom idea brought up at the last meeting. He supports the idea of an outdoor classroom.

The board state that we are in the beginning of the process of collecting ideas, once we have a comprehensive list of ideas, we will schedule a public meeting to discuss with the broader community. After that, the board will have to decide on the allocation of funds.

Robin questioned why the school was not using ARPA funds that were educational related for this project? Principal Beal state that those funds are already allocated, and he doesn't see any money coming their way for something like this from the Supervisory Union. Robin then suggested some potential for grants and that he would pass on some information he has to the school for possible action.

Heather & Mary & Laura spoke in support of the outdoor classroom.

The board re-iterated that the last meeting was the first step in our larger process, their idea and presentation has been put into the file for broader consideration at the public meeting which will be held at the end of the process – late summer or early fall. At that meeting. After that meeting the board will deliberate and make their final decisions on allocating the ARPA funds.

TOWN OFFICERS: Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers –

Patty talked about the upcoming election – absentee ballots are here and are beginning

to be sent out. Tabulator testing and training will happen once we have the programming disks from LHS.

She also reminded members that we have a request for a Tax Abatement hearing. She has had very little response to her request for potential dates to hold said hearing. A reminder will go out as soon as time allows.

Jenny gave a brief review of the financials for the end of year. We will have a surplus in both general and highway this year and she inquired whether there is anything we can spend money on in this year's budget to ease next year's burden. There was a discussion about potential items we could buy this year – stocking up on office supplies, buying the iPad for the highway department this year instead of next, election supplies, stockpiling highway materials, etc. List of possibilities of where we could spend some of it. Supplies for next year,

Patty will work on a list of general supplies that we could buy in this year's budget vs next year and order from Staples.

There was also a discussion about the payment for the new highway truck and whether that payment could be accounted for as an expense line item in this year's budget instead of being drawn from the equipment fund reserve account. Jenny had scheduled part of that payment to come from the reserve.

Patty moved to approve the payment made for the new highway truck be included in current year expenditures, overspending that line item by the full amount of the payment \$31,724.17, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Sally reported that the listers have received verification from the state that there were no appeals on the 2021 grand list, therefore she is presenting the Certification of No Appeal to the board for approval.

Robin moved to accept the Certificate of No Appeal on the 2021 Grand List of the Town of Middletown Springs, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report –

Bill reported the following -

- Ditching, grading, addressed a Service Request on North Street
- Needs to order more calcium because of the dry conditions
- Repairs on Backhoe & Grader
- Filled potholes and fixed aprons with “plant mix”
- Needs to order culverts for upcoming projects
- West Street stone lined ditches need some work – Would like to utilize the sheriff for traffic control for that project
- Still waiting for a quote for patching repairs on 140 – shoulder crumbling & pothole patches where it's bad.
- Looking to put some ground asphalt or “plant mix” on some areas that need it.
- Logging happening on Haley Road – so he hasn't graded that road yet, hopefully he can do that next week.
- Dudley Rd waiting on haying to happen before grading.

- Will check in with Dubois & King re: Daisy Hollow Road

Other Town Highway – Terry talked to Wells regarding roadside mowing, still didn't hear back. Also reached out to Jim Hathaway to see if he might be interested in doing a portion of the roadside mowing. Waiting to hear back. Numerous people are still searching for someone to do the job. So far, no takers.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress:

Robin – Naylor & Breen put our project out to bid. Response was not good. Some divisions got no bids at all. All these bids were predicated on starting this summer. Peter, Geoff, Tanner, & Miles met this morning to talk about this.

Recommendation from Naylor & Breen is for the board to formally reject the bids we received, and close out that bidding process then authorize them to re-bid and negotiate with subs directly. We are not sure at this point whether starting this fall makes sense or whether we should wait for spring to get better pricing and availability. The terms of our bank loan will impact the decision making. Robin will reach out to Chris at the Bank of Middlebury to see what a delayed start could mean to our agreement.

Our action item for tonight is to formally reject the bids received and authorize Naylor & Breen to re-bid and negotiate with subcontractors on pricing and timelines.

Robin moved that the Town of Middletown Springs reject all bids submitted to Naylor & Breen and authorize Naylor & Breen to re-bid the project and negotiate with subcontractors to achieve the best value for the town, Terry, 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Peter reported that he has gotten a quote from Williams Water Supply regarding the water system. Pricing is less than originally quoted so that budget number looks good right now.

He has also heard back from AOT. They have approved the curb cut for the parking lot but will require sidewalks along South and East Streets in front of the building. We will have to look for potential grants and investigate pricing.

Robin acknowledged Peter and his help through this process, he's been invaluable.

Other Building Projects: MSVFD, MTS Library, 577 West Street site – nothing.

SOLID WASTE: Nothing.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing this time.

BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills –

Robin moved to approve the board orders removing the order to draw from the highway equipment fund reserve and including an additional handwritten order to pay the Animal Control stipend of \$250 to Neil Russell, our animal control officer, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

LEGAL: Nothing tonight.

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:

Neil brought the need for the town to begin to formally look for an additional full-time highway crew member.

Neil moved that the board should begin a search to find a full-time highway employee, Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about what the parameters of the search ensued. Patty will find the last ad and parameters we used and send out to members. With this information and current conditions we hope to be ready to move forward with advertising at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (In Person w/Zoom access)

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – Nothing tonight.

ADJOURN: Terry moved to adjourn at 9:06pm, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk