

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • July 14, 2022
Start time 7pm

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: none Via Zoom: none

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: none. Via Zoom - Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Ron Masleh.

CALL TO ORDER: Heather called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

Robin moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022 meeting as presented, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Herb Childress – nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: Nothing.

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

Patty reported that she's been working on the upcoming primary, absentee ballots have been sent out, the tabulator test was done this week, but will have to be done again as the state is having all the cards reprogrammed due to a couple of errors. New cards should be in next week and testing will happen soon after.

Patty provided an updated wage schedule with FY22/23 numbers for the board to review and approve.

Terry moved to approve wages, salaries, stipends as outlined in the updated Wage Schedule provided, Robin 2nd. All in favor motion carried.

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report – Written report from Bill

- 7/2 thru 7/8 – Grading, putting gravel on roads where needed. Filling potholes, trimming around guardrails & intersections, equipment service & repairs.
- 7/9 thru 7/15 – off
- 7/16 thru 7/22 – Might be able to work some of this week. Left a list of things for Richie to work if he has any time.

Other Town Highway – Terry would like to recognize the work Bill did around Fox Bridge/Coy Hill intersection with Route 140 cleaning up the shoulders and cutting back brush to improve visibility. Richie has worked a couple days this week doing some grading.

He is still looking for someone to do roadside mowing. Has put out a couple of feelers and is hoping to get some interest.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress:

Sidewalk discussion – Peter reported that the sidewalk requested by AOT is in the new bid package as a revision. So, we are hoping to get some idea of the cost through that process.

Patty talked a bit about Bill's input on the sidewalk drawing and that we might want to talk more to the local AOT folks to get their input on the design and whether or not this sidewalk is necessary.

The board would like Bill to reach out to his district advisor at AOT regarding this plan to get their input.

Other Building Projects: MSVFD, MTS Library, 577 West Street site – none

SOLID WASTE: Nothing new here. Maybe next meeting we can do evaluations for Bill and Glen. Patty will look for the forms, email them to folks to fill out and bring back to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- VT DEM – Dam fee & registration paperwork filled out – payment \$200 needs approval
 - Terry moved to approve the 2022 State Dam Registration and \$200 fee, Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- Internal Financial Controls Checklist from Jenny – needs SB acknowledgement
 - Terry signed the document as the Vice Chair acknowledging board receipt and review.
- Certificate of Insurance from Naylor & Breen re: Town Office project
- Email re: award of Grants in Aid - \$16,500 – projects need to be determined. FY2022/2023
- VMERS Rate Increase Letter – increase of .25%
- Thank You letters - Vermont Family Network, Big Heavy World, VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
- VLCT Post cards for upcoming trainings & Town Fair 2022
- Email from H Thomas regarding Swimming Lesson payment – Outlining her confusion about who swimming lessons were authorized to be offered to. She was unaware that they were intended for Middletown residents only and had been included the previous year without any questions.

The board had a discussion about the specific issue at hand and then a broader discussion about its ability to continue funding a program that we have no way of effectively monitoring or administering. The program landed in the town's lap after the local Grange disbanded. Since then, it has agreed to pay for swimming lessons each year upon a request from a former grange member who was willing to coordinate the effort. This situation has had numerous issues throughout and the board has tried to adjust their expectations to help mitigate issues as they came up, at this point it's become a bigger responsibility than the board has the capacity to handle. Every board member feels this is an important program and tradition for the children of Middletown Springs, many remember attending

themselves and the board would like to see the program continue. Most agreed that it cannot continue to be funded as a town run program when we have no budget or policies for administering it. Board members feel the program would be better served if run by a local non-profit organization who would have greater latitude in practices and could find willing volunteers to hold all the parts and pieces for accountability. As a result of the discussion,

- Terry moved to pay the \$35 for the out-of-town resident due to an error by the volunteer coordinator, Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
- Terry moved that the town of Middletown Springs is no longer able to fund the summer swimming lesson program going forward as we are unable to properly administer it. Patty 2nd. Ayes – Heather, Terry, Patty. Opposed – Robin, Neil. Motion carried.

Robin will send a note to H Thomas informing her of our decision.

BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills –

Terry moved to approve board orders as amended, Robin 2nd. Ayes- Robin, Terry, Patty
Abstain – Heather, Neil.

Amendment is to change the amount due to the Town of Castleton for swimming lessons to reflect the board's earlier decision.

LEGAL: No legal

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:

Highway Employment ad – The board reviewed the ad from 2018 and by consensus agreed to the following updates – no due date on submissions, main contact person and submission guidelines. The ad will be placed publicized in the Rutland Herald & Lakes Region Free Press for two weeks as well as any free options we have such as, the state, FPF, TownNews, etc.

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

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – none

ADJOURN: Robin moved to adjourn at 8:38pm, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk