

## **Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Special Meeting • Sept 15, 2022 • 7:00PM**

**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: Kimberly Bushnell – Librarian, Herb Childress – EMD, Sarah Grimm – Auditor.  
via Zoom: Alida Tarbell – Library Trustee.

**PUBLIC PRESENT** – At the Town Office: Leslie Silver, Michael Beattie, Carl Haynes, Maureen McCormack. Via Zoom: Kim Carr, Laura Derrenderinger, Beth Carmody.

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

### **DISCUSSION ON ARPA FUNDS:**

The board opened the discussion calling on the folks in the room first and then moving on to those joining via Zoom.

Kimberly presented a request on behalf of the library board. They would like the town to allocate \$3,000 to provide the matching funds for a study grant they've been awarded by the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The study will result in a couple of design options to expand the library building and solve the ADA compliance issues. The library is considering an outdoor space as part of this expansion to provide for more flexibility in programming and pandemic resiliency.

Michael Beattie expressed his support for the idea of an outdoor space associated with the school and or the library.

Herb urged the board to focus on using the money to bring the Town Office project to fruition and to concentrate on a couple of projects that will result in real change and to resist giving partial funding to projects that might not be able to be completed with the dollars given.

Maureen asked how much money will the town get in ARPA funds? \$223,000 and change.

Carl expressed that he thought the town should have enough money to build the town office with reserve & loan money currently on hand and thought that it was time to invest in an addition to the library if the property is able to accommodate the addition.

Beth Carmody presented an updated asked from the Friends for Education outdoor classroom/community event space project. They requested \$20,000 which they believe would be enough to buy the materials needed for the structure. The project would then call on volunteer labor to erect the structure and other fundraising to

complete the full implementation.

Laura Derrenderinger also expressed her support for this project and cited the numerous studies that have been done on the effect of the pandemic on children due to remote learning and separation from their peers. Children are in a mental health crisis across the country and studies have shown that having access to fresh air and outdoor learning opportunities is an important tool to address the crises. She also reiterated that the space would be available to townspeople to reserve and use when the school is not using it.

There was a brief discussion about the legalities and restrictions that apply to a property owned by the school versus the town and the point was made that once the town gives the money away to an outside entity, they have no control or say in how the resulting product is maintained or managed.

Patty brought up the town office building as one big project that needs funding to be completed. The board has calculated that they need \$170,000 to cover the guaranteed maximum price under their contract with Naylor & Breen along with the additional needs not included in the contract.

Patty also mentioned two projects that she'd like to see some money dedicated to as the Town Clerk. 1. Land record digitization - \$15,000 and 2. Updating/upgrading the town's website and implementing an official town email system to enhance security and privacy for town officials - \$5,000.

Recapping the requests, we have:

Town Office - \$170,000  
Digitization of Land Records - \$15,000  
Updated/Upgraded Website - \$5,000  
Library Study match - \$3,000  
Outdoor Classroom - \$20,000

Total: \$213,0000

Overall, there appears to be enough funds to contribute to each of these projects at full ask. The board will review, discuss, and make decisions on allocating the funds at an upcoming meeting.

The board thanked everyone for coming and sharing their thoughts and ideas.

**OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:** Nothing tonight.

### **Upcoming meeting Schedule**

Regular Meeting - Thursday, September 29 at 7pm

**Executive Session (if needed):** none

**ADJOURN:** Terry moved to adjourn at 8:25pm, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Clerk