

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • September 22, 2022
Start time 7pm

BOARD PRESENT: At the town office: Terry Redfield, Patty Kenyon, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman. Via Zoom: Heather Grier, Neil Russell at 7:10pm.

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: Herb Childress – Emergency Management Director, Bill Reed – Road Foreman/Road Commissioner. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Deb House – Delinquent Tax Collector.

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: None. Via Zoom – Ron Masleh, Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Laura Derrendinger.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting & September 15, 2022 Special Meeting

Robin moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022 regular meeting and September 15, 2022 special meeting as presented, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Herb reported that we have no comments to date on the hot weather resource plan. The board had no comments to add at this time. The team will meet next week to finalize the plan and it will be brought back to the board for adoption as part of the LEMP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: Nothing tonight.

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

Patty reported that General Election ballots arrived today and the deadline to mail overseas ballots out is tomorrow.

Deb attended to give an update on where we are with delinquent taxes right now. We have a total of about \$87,000 in tax dollars, but of that \$87,000 most folks are either in payment plans or are taking advantage of the state's COVID relief program. Given that our effective delinquent total is right around \$37,000. This is down from over \$200,000 when she took on this position. Additionally, she has some information on one property that she would like to share with the board in Executive Session if that is on the docket for tonight.

The board thanked Deb for her outstanding work in getting our delinquent taxes in such good shape. It's a huge accomplishment.

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report –

- Tom Fuller is due to be here middle of next week to do the paving on West Street.
- GIA grant is nearly all set – hoping to finalize next week.

- There is a beaver dam on Daisy Hollow Rd that is backing up onto the road. Bill needs to connect with the game warden to get his input on trying to deal with the dam.
- He's still trying to button up the rain garden off of Firehouse Lane.
- Starting second round of grading as weather permits.
- Plugged culverts he's hoping to clear out – might need to connect with the fire department to use their high-pressure hoses.
- Ditching material that needs to be removed from the roadsides.
- Been mixing ½" stone with the winter sand – getting ready to put up this year's winter sand.
- Got pricing for renting a roadside mower for next year from Haven House Farm Equipment, Joe Gunter. Bill would like to schedule for two weeks at least – possibly three weeks – one at either end of the season. The board asked Bill to get a copy of the contract, pencil us in for the two weeks he thinks is best, and bring that information to the next meeting. At that time the board will make a decision.
- Service request from Linda Moyer – Lookaway Road - regarding plans for winter plowing. Bill & Terry will take a look at the situation and connect with Jordan Martelle, her plow guy on coordination. Our best option may be to contract with Martelle to do that road and bill us for the road section.
- Bill is still working on winter sand pricing. Beyond Jim Mars we have no other pricing. He does have a few feelers out there; we would like to be making a decision on this by the next meeting.
- Terry asked about the plan for the corner of Coy Hill Road by Beth Miller's. Bill worked on it today to put a band-aid on it. It starts in the State right of way so they will need to be involved in any permanent solution.

Other Town Highway – Herb reported his progress so far on the VTRANS grant for a new salt shed. He met with Cathy Reynolds from Tinmouth to get information on the process and their proposed project. He has a meeting with Devon Neary at RRPC next week to discuss project size. The grant deadline is the beginning of December which gives us some time to get our ducks in a row. Maximum state contribution is \$300,000 and has an 80/20 match criteria. Board members are invited to join in the Zoom meeting with RRPC next week if they choose – Wednesday, at 11am – Herb will send the link out.

Herb will report back next meeting on his progress.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress: Robin reviewed the progress on the building to date. We are moving forward – the current plan is that we should be breaking ground around October 15, all subs in the contract are confirmed, all sections of the contract are confirmed except for the mechanicals – we have a couple of contractors looking at that pricing for us. Fabian is on tap to do the site work this fall. There will be a site meeting on October 5 at 9am for the final talk through to make sure Fabian has what they need to begin the work.

Frank Parent has submitted the final plans and curb cut application to AOT so we should get that permit in hand sometime soon.

Peter asked if we wanted to save the stones in the stone wall at the site. Yes, we can

move them to the town yard off of Firehouse Lane for reuse at a later date.

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

SOLID WASTE: Big Dumpster Day is October 1 – we will take tires at this event. Nita Clay has agreed to work collecting money and directing traffic. Terry is still trying to get some workers – he has not gotten a commitment from Richie and Bill is not available that day so we may need someone to run the backhoe during the event. He is also still looking for someone to oversee the tire dumpster.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Appropriation Request – Vermont Family Network \$250 same as last year.
- Bill brought in an email from Eric Kallio – Industrial Tower & Wireless – they are proposing a communications tower on Toppin Road in Ira – this is news to our town. They are requesting some help from the town. Robin will connect with him to try to get more information about the project and the specific ask.
- VLCT insurance renewal – Patty sent the equipment schedule to Terry and Bill who confirmed that the equipment schedule looks good for the renewal.

BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills –

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

LEGAL: None

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS: Nothing

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

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) –

Robin moved to enter Executive Session at 8:35pm to discuss personnel & legal issues, inviting the Delinquent Tax Collector, Deb House to join us, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to exit Executive Session at 8:55pm, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Action Item – Terry & Neil will set up an interview with the prospective applicant and Patty will publicize the job with VLCT classifieds and other free media.

ADJOURN: Patty moved to adjourn at 8:58pm, Terry 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk